



The JOURNAL

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Journal Entries

Nifty 50s
The Villa Grove Nifty 50s are seeking a leader for the upcoming annual meeting. Please call (217) 832-9770 or (217) 840-9566 if you are interested.

5K Run/Walk
The third annual Pound the Pavement for Pride 5k Color Run/Walk is looking for runners to sign up for the 5k. The race will be on June 10 with a 7 a.m. registration and 8 a.m. start at the Tuscola Community Building. More information and sign up link at <https://www.facebook.com/tuscolagsaboosterclub>.

Operation Honor Guard
Veterans will be in the SavMor parking lot to collect donations for Operation Honor Guard on May 10. They will be in the lot from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Veteran Reunion
The Korner Beehive is hosting the third annual Beehive Veteran Reunion on May 27 in partnership with VFW Post 2876. Logan Chapman, David Allen Stone, Spectrum, and Ancient Ways will bring live music at the plaza. Vendors will be available along Main Street. Admission will be go to Charity and the Villa Grove Community Building.

USI Retirees Breakfast
Anyone who worked for the company USI, Quantum, Equistar, LyondellBasel (or any of its other names) in Tuscola is invited to attend a retiree's breakfast at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur on Wednesday, May 17 at 8:00 a.m. Please call Dan Miller at 217/649-9656 with any questions.

Villa Grove Alumni
Villa Grove Alumni can attend a banquet at the school gym celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Villa Grove Basketball and Baseball State Championship on May 27, with dinner at 6 p.m. Class reunions will be throughout the afternoon. Some events require admission. Call Pam Long Sigler at (217) 832-9067 or Sandi Anderson Cruzan at (217) 369-1661 for more information or reservations.

Loyalty Day
The Villa Grove VFW is sponsoring Loyalty Day celebrations on May 6. The parade starts at 11 a.m. at Harrison Park. After the event there will be Touch-A-Truck Military Vehicle Event, Gabbard Lane dedication at 1 p.m. at former Beech St., Frank Thomas Dr. dedication at 1:15 p.m. at former Henson Park Rd. A sports skills challenge will start around 1:30 p.m.

Derby
Ta'Carbon is hosting the Keli Adkison Memorial Fund annual Motor Vehicle Show May 6. Spectator parking is located in the north-west corner of the outlet mall. The event features a Kentucky Derby, Derby hat contest, awards, prizes, DJ music and a Chicago-style silent auction. The event provides scholarships to Tuscola High School seniors.

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

Phi Kappa Phi
Phi Kappa Phi inducted Dalton Hoel and Kameryn Kresin at McKendree University.

Tuscola Public Library Events
Youth Bingo, May 8, 4 p.m.
Lego Club, May 9, 4 p.m.
Goodnight Storytime with Mr. Wallace, May 10, 6:30 p.m.
Storytime, every tuesday at 10 a.m. with special guests
Exploring Cinema, The Grapes of Wrath, May 3, 6 p.m.
Travel Club, Northern France, May 23, 5 p.m.
Book Discussion, American nations, May 31, 6 p.m.
Library Book Sale, May 15-20



MACI CLODFELDER is crowned 2023 Miss Villa Grove by 2022 Miss Villa Grove Addisyn Wilson. Photo by Rachel Ray.



NEWLY CROWNED 2023 Miss Villa Grove contestants. Little Miss Camdyn Chapman, Miss Villa Grove Maci Clodfelder, and Junior Miss Addison Burris. Photo by Rachel Ray.

Community Center completion date pushed back

Villa Grove Community Center Director Bethany Sorowka said that air ducts for the new Community Center were on back-order and that the project completion date would be pushed back for the immediate future at the April 24 Villa Grove City Council meeting. She also said that summer recreational baseball and softball were starting and that she and director Mixell had worked together to ensure that the fields were in good condition. Sorowka said that Robert Fancher, a senior at Villa Grove high school, had been hired as the manager of concessions for the summer.

Mayor Eversoeel Gunter and Alderman Matthew Pangburn were absent from the meeting. Alderman Boots Blaney sat in as Mayor Pro-Tem. Resident Jeff Markel voiced his concerns about the new street name changes. Blaney assured him that the request came from the county 911 services. Changing the street names removed duplicate names in the 911 database. Blaney acknowledged that it would cause some consternation among residents, and Administrator Athey made some suggestions for a smooth transition. Blaney then called for depart-

ment chair reports and City Treasurer Jacki Athey reported that she had received the annual audit results and was working on small corrections they had discovered. Athey said she was working on things relating to the end of the fiscal year. She also noted that Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) would increase by 1 percent for the fiscal year 2024. Public Works Director Marc Mixell reported that the equipment needed for road repairs would arrive soon. He also stated that the Zest for Life Center roofing issues had been completed, that the new Public Works building was in the

final stages of completion, and that the new floors for the Zest for Life Center were set to be installed around May 25. He also noted that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) doors were set to be installed soon. Blaney then asked for a consensus on paying Broeren Russo pay request number 10, tabled a call for consensus on a change order for the community building, and finally called for a consensus on several Frick Concrete bids for work around Villa Grove, including improvements to Main Street sidewalks and storm drains.



TUSCOLA SENIORS CROWNED their prom king and queen, Grant Kauffman and Molly Macaulay. The other king candidates, and junior attendants stand on either side. Left to right, Brayden Gough, Jordan Quinn, Colton Musgrave, Benjamin Hornaday, Tyson Macaulay and Hunter Branca. The queen candidates and junior attendants, from left to right, Anna Rauguth, Hailey Downs, Ella Boyer, Mia Hausman, Addisyn Pettry and Sydney Moss. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Summer pool passes are available for purchase

Summer is quickly approaching, and it's time to get ready for the upcoming Tuscola Ervin Park Pool season! Tuscola Mayor Daniel Kleiss is excited to provide the community with recreational opportunities at the swimming pool again this summer! "With inflation pressures, it gets harder each year for small towns to operate these types of recreational options. I'm proud to say that Tuscola residents will be able to enjoy their pool again this year!" said Kleiss. The pool will be open for the

season beginning May 27. Normal operating hours: 12:30-7:30 p.m. daily. Adult-only swim hours: 11:30-12:30 p.m. daily. Residents can skip the lines at the pool gate by purchasing their season passes for the Tuscola pool in advance of the pool opening date. Passes will again be available in both an unlimited season pass and in a multiple-entry shareable pass. The passes can also be purchased online at <https://tuscola.org/pool>. Passes

can also be requested at City Hall at 214 N Main St., Water Department walk-up door. The Unlimited season passes require a photo of the pass holder. Photos can be submitted online or taken in person at City Hall. Electronic passes will be processed and emailed within a day after purchase. Optional physical pass cards will be available to be picked up within two business days at City Hall prior to the pool opening for the season or

at the pool front desk after May 27. Prices for pool passes are the same as last year. The City Council raised the rate from \$125 to \$200 for a 2-hour rental for up to 50 people at the April 24 meeting. Treasurer Alta Long said that last year's rate did not cover the personnel costs associated with a pool party. More info can be found at www.tuscola.org/pool. Questions may be directed to info@tuscola.org or you can call City Hall at 217-253-2112.

Villa Grove bustling with celebrations

By Tony Hooker
Villa Grove will be the site of three very important events on Saturday, May 6, with the Loyalty Day Parade, Street Dedication ceremony and Summer Recreation skills competition all set to kick off festivities.

Americanization Day, Loyalty Day was created as a reaffirmation of loyalty to the US and as a direct counterpoint to Communist May Day celebrations. On July 18, 1958 Congress made Loyalty Day an official May 1 holiday. This will be the 48 annual loyalty day parade here in Villa Grove, according to Troy and Jennifer Gray, who represent Villa

Grove's Walter Jones VFW post 2876. Troy, who has been involved with the loyalty day parade since 2015, said that the parade is all about being proud to be an American, and Jennifer concurs. "It's showing support toward all Americans, whether you're a veteran or not," she stated. Troy added that it's also about supporting

American ideals. The parade will get a boost in entrants this year, per Troy. "Charlie Burris has helped out a lot this year, and Lincoln's Challenge is going to be sending a squad down," he said. "If you've never seen them, they're quite impressive." Burris will also be bringing several vehicles from the national