



# Southern Champaign County TODAY

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Better Newspapers Inc.

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### Menards Pet Supplies Drive

Wed., April 1 and running until Sunday, May 31. Menards has started a Pet Supplies Drive at all store locations. There are more details on the attached press release, plus a Menards Store Manager list to contact your local store manager for an interview or questions.

### Tolono Food Pantries

Every Monday from 5-6:30 p.m. and Friday 9-10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Charities, Tolono. Free Food Pantry located at the Parish providing fresh produce, meat and pantry items. Serving all of Champaign County.

Every Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Giving Place is open in Tolono to help families in need of food items.

### Fun Day Committee Meeting

Third Thursday of every month Tolono Fun Day Committee Meeting 6:30 at the Police Station.

### Senior Luncheon

St Pat's Parish Hall (304 E Vine in Tolono) with second Wednesday of the Month Senior Luncheon (55+) Coffee Social Hour starts at 10:30 a.m., eating at 11:30 a.m. (bring \$3 and a side to share) Pantry is open Mondays 5-6:30 p.m. and Fridays (9-10:30 a.m.)

### Unit 7 events this week

- 4/24 School Improvement Day, early dismissal
- 4/25 Unity Prom
- 5/1-3 Unity Spring Musical "Addams Family"

## Unit 7 Board of Education meeting

On April 15th when the Board of Education met in the Unity Junior High Media Center, the principal's reports from the various schools were full of positive comments about the staff and accomplishments of students in their buildings. In the "spotlight" segment at the beginning of the meeting, Chris Graves, librarian/Media Center Director at Unity High, talked about the "Rocket Locker" program with free snacks and self-care supplies to discreetly be given to any students in need. She proposed the thought of having a bigger space to accommodate the growing need and how donations were needed to help with cleaning, laundry and school supplies as various organizations, service groups and churches have been assisting to make sure shelves are stocked. Unity High School Principal, Bill Behrends talked about improvements with attendance. The freshman class won the incentive prize of a pizza party (35 pizzas, but more was needed!) as a 96% attendance rate was reported. Student Council Week with the Great Auction on Thursday April 16th, the Hall of Fame and Honor Society evening and Prom the last Saturday in April at iHotel from 7-10pm were some of the events coming up. In early May, the musical "The Addams Family" will happen in the auditorium and then seniors have their awards and May 14th it's the senior trip to Holiday World then on May 17th graduation will wrap things up for the Class of 2026.

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## Village of Sidney Board of Trustees and Sidney American Legion Post 433 discuss 50-year time capsule ceremony and contents reveal



Village of Sidney 50-year time capsule buried in front of the Sidney American Legion Post 433 at 221 South David Street; previous home to Village of Sidney offices and the Sidney Community Library. Photo by Ann Rhoton.

By Ann Rhoton SCTP News Correspondent

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees met on Monday, April 13 in the Sidney Community Building meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Village of Sidney President John Finn brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. following the recitation of the pledge of allegiance by all in attendance and a roll call of trustees in attendance to include Trustees Donna Hooker, Bret Harris, and Dan Gadeken. Trustee Matt Laurent arrived at 7:03 p.m. and Trustee Leroy Schluter arrived at 7:04 p.m. Trustee Tyler Bickers was not in attendance.

Village of Sidney President John Finn asked if there was any public comment.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch, Adjutant/Service Officer Bill McLane, and Judge Advocate Susan McLane were in attendance at the meeting.

Post 433 Adjutant/Service Officer Bill McLane reported that the Sidney American Legion Post 433 had thought about having the 50-year Sidney time capsule ceremony and contents reveal on Sunday, June 14 ahead of their American Flag retirement ceremony, but that he wanted folks to come to the ceremony.

McLane reported that he had since spoken with Sidney Improvement Group President Donna Hooker and that, with the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees approval, they would like to have the digging up ceremony and contents reveal at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 25 in front of the Post Home located at 221 South David Street during the Sidney Fun Daze ahead of road closing for the car show.

Discussion amongst board trustees, Village of Sidney President John Finn, and Sidney American Legion Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch, Adjutant/Service Officer Bill McLane, and Judge Advocate Susan McLane took place resulting with the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees stating that they are fine with having the ceremony during the Sidney Fun Daze.

Mr. McLane announced that he will have a display of museum artifacts set up in the Sidney American Legion Post 433 meeting room, that he and his wife Susan will be dressed as George and Martha Washington, and that he will invite WCIA television and the News-Gazette newspaper to the event.

Post 433 Adjutant/Service Officer Bill McLane also confirmed that the Sidney American Legion Post 433 will host an American Flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day Sunday, June 14.

Mr. McLane asked about the status of the Sidney Veterans Memorial and Village of Sidney President John Finn reported that he will look in to the possibility of getting a grant writer to write a grant for getting monies for the memorial.

McLane lastly reported that he will be donating three display cases to the Village of Sidney to display things at the Sidney Community Building.

Cub Scout Pack Troop 55 member Soren Davis who is working on an Eagle Scout project reported that he and his team will be at the Witt Park Ball Park on Saturday, April 25 to work on his Eagle Scout project setting Witt Park walking trail signs and cleaning out brush on the walking trails and asked the board for a donation to pay for some of the expenses.

A motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent to pre-approve up to \$500.00 for the expense of the project carried.

The downtown business sign was discussed under public comment with Village of Sidney President John Finn reporting that there are five businesses interested in having individual business and downtown organizational signs put on the downtown business sign.

A Sidney resident was in attendance at the meeting who stated that he thought the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees had done a real good job replacing village trees that have had to be taken down, but that they now needed someone to take an interest in maintenance of those trees and trim them up a little bit.

Another Sidney resident was in attendance at the meeting to give the board an update on the cleanup of their property and reported that the owner will be taking some time off work to finish the job in the near future.

Brett Franzen from The Goose & The Gander, LLC provided an update for his and the Sidney Improvement Group's May 9 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Sidney Spring Fling event scheduled to take place in downtown Sidney by reporting that he is getting vendors and now has a food truck

for the event which should make for a fun community event for Sidney.

An engineer from the Farnsworth Group LLC reported under public comment that he was at the meeting to answer any questions that the Village of Sidney might have about roads and stated that the village would need to go out to bid for a project if MFT monies will be used.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Streets and Alleys Chair Dan Gadeken stated that he would like to hold off on tar and chipping of village streets for now and meet with Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts and the Farnsworth Group engineer to sit down and come up with a cost of repairing South David Street between Railroad and Prairie Streets in front of the elevator.

He emphasized that he would like to come up with a cost for a David Street repair that would last for more than a few years that he would present to the Premiere Cooperative elevator to see what they might be able to offer in funds to help with the cost of the project and go from there. Board members in attendance were fine with his plan.

There were no additional comments from the public and President Finn moved on to ask trustees to look at the Monday, March 2 regular meeting minutes and to approve them if they so choose. A motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent to approve the Monday, March 2 regular meeting minutes carried.

Village of Sidney President John Finn began his comments by reporting that he was very happy with how the Saturday, April 11 Village of Sidney Dumpster Day had gone.

President Finn addressed May 2026 - April 2027 meeting dates and asked the trustees to approve them if they so choose. All of the trustees in attendance were fine with and approved the presented dates.

It was reported that the \$34,789.00 Federal Signal Safety and Security Systems Dunlap Woods area ESDA siren quote provided by Sidney ESDA Director Pete Mantell and approved at the Monday, March 2 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees meeting through a motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent to spend up to \$35,000.00 on the ESDA siren for the Dunlap Woods area in Sidney project is now on hold due to not having a location for the siren.

It was additionally reported that Dunlap Woods Subdivision residents are holding a Tuesday, April 14 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Sidney Community Building to discuss the ESDA siren location.

Sidney ESDA Director Pete Mantell offered to a Dunlap Woods resident in attendance to attend the meeting if they would like him to. The resident thought that would be great so Mr. Mantell will be attending the meeting.

Some possible siren locations discussed included Wilsey Lane, Dunlap Woods, and the Mt. Hope Cemetery.

President Finn reported that he had been getting reports about kids on golf carts and scooters and stated that the village does not have an enforcement tool to register and keep track of golf carts or to take care of this.

A new office computer for the Village of Sidney and names to be put on a Village of Sidney Protection Associates call list were discussed under President Finn's com-

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Just a Reminder...

# Our New Deadline Is Approaching!

Ads, Legals, Submitted Photos and Editorial Deadlines will be noon Friday starting our next edition.

