

Blooming Success for Local Hygiene Drive in Champaign

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – Spring has bloomed with community support at the Illinois Extension office in Champaign for the local Hygiene Drive. For the month of April, the Champaign County Extension office held a hygiene product donation drive in support of the CLU-W Hygiene Pantry of Champaign County.

The CLU-W Hygiene Pantry was founded to address the

rising cost of basic care items. The pantry provides free hygiene essentials to individuals and families in our community who may have difficulty affording such products. In hosting this drive, Illinois Extension hopes to ensure community members have access to essential hygiene items that support health, dignity, and well-being.

This is the first hygiene

drive that has been led at the Champaign County Extension office, and it was a smashing success. Numerous donations were received each week from members of the community. Donors dropped off various personal care and household goods weekly, sometimes daily, for the drive. One donor left bags of organic, handmade soaps and lotions that were made for their small business.

Several donors brought in handfuls of plastic bags filled with goods purchased that day for the drive specifically and expressed interest in continuing to donate to the local hygiene pantry even after the month-long drive ended.

The donation box would be emptied weekly and taken to the CLU-W Hygiene Pantry of Champaign County, as the donation box would quickly

fill up with various hygiene items. After the drive concluded on April 30, the donations received for that week were gathered and taken to the pantry. The final count for all donated goods included 139 full-size items, 850 travel-size items, for a grand total of 989 donated items.

For more information on the Hygiene Drive, please contact Tracy Bowden at

tbowden@illinois.edu or Vanessa Jones at vjones@illinois.edu.

To learn more about the CLU-W Hygiene Pantry of Champaign County and how to support the pantry directly, visit their website at www.clu-w-hygiene.org or contact them directly at hygienepantrycc@gmail.com or 217-249-8971.

Fresh strawberry season is finally here

Another nice spring morning! Lawns are green and needing to be mowed. Corn is showing up in the farmer's fields. Spring is here.

Last night we attended a real estate auction in the neighborhood. Lots of people showed up to witness a farmstead on 10 acres sell for \$450,000.

Thursday was a church holiday (Ascension Day). We spent the day with Gerald's 95-year-old dad.

Friday is more bread and cookies for a customer. Then the week is almost gone. I don't know where time goes.

Try these Strawberry recipes with fresh strawberries.

Strawberry Tapioca

9 c. water
1 tsp. salt
1½ c. baby pearl tapioca
1 c. strawberry Jell-O
2/3 c. raspberry Jell-O
½ gal. vanilla ice cream
1 qt. strawberries
Bring water and salt to a boil and add tapioca. Turn off heat and let set for 35 minutes. Bring to a boil again and add Jell-Os. Take off heat and cool. Just before serving, add ice cream and strawberries. Do not overmix. Very refreshing on a warm summer day.

Strawberry Pie

1 c. sugar
¼ c. clear jel
1 c. water

From My Amish Kitchen

By Doris Yoder



½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. red food coloring
2 Tbsp. light Karo
3 Tbsp. strawberry Jell-O
1½ c. strawberries
whipped topping
Cook first 6 ingredients together. Save part of water to mix with clear jel. Add strawberry Jell-O after removing from stove. Then add ½ cup strawberries. Pour in baked

pie shell. When cool, top with whipped topping.

Strawberry Shortcake

2 c. flour
4 tsp. baking powder
¾ tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. sugar
1/3 c. shortening
2/3 c. milk
1 egg, beaten
Topping:

½ c. sugar
½ c. flour
3 Tbsp. butter
Mix first 5 ingredients then add milk and egg. Put in 9"x9" pan, then add topping. Put in oven. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Top with fresh strawberries and Cool Whip.

Strawberry Dessert Topping

1 qt. frozen strawberries, blended
1½ c. water
1/3 c. clear jel
1 c. sugar
Mix water, sugar and clear jel in saucepan, cook until thickened.

Blend in with strawberries. Tastes like fresh straw-

berry filling. Use on top of cakes, cheesecakes or fruit pizza. Also delicious yogurt.

Strawberry Delight

15 graham crackers, crushed
1/2 c. melted butter
1 (8 oz.) cream cheese
1 (8 oz.) Cool Whip
¾ c. powdered sugar
strawberry pie filling
Mix cracker crumbs and butter together and press into bottom of a 9"x13" pan. Beat cream cheese, Cool Whip and powdered sugar together well. Spread over crust. Spread pie filling on top of cream cheese mixture. or use previous Dessert topping recipe

Village

Continued from page 1

attendance. His partner Gavin Gunter was in attendance, but had nothing to report.

Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts entertained discussion of possibly trading in the village backhoe to purchase a skid-steer introduced by him at the Monday, April 13 meeting and provided estimates from Birkey's in Urbana and John Deere.

A motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Dan Gadeken to purchase the skid-steer and all the attachments from Birkey's in Urbana carried.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Finance Chair Donna Hooker gave the finance report. She asked Village of Sidney Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Reinhart if there were

any additional bills and was told that there were no additions. A motion from Trustee Donna Hooker seconded by Trustee Dan Gadeken to pay all of the monthly bills for April as presented with no additions carried.

Village of Sidney Trustee and Finance Chair Donna Hooker reported that a \$154,000.00 Village of Sidney 12-month CD is maturing on May 14 and that they needed to do something with it.

A motion from Trustee Hooker seconded by Trustee Bret Harris to put \$100,000.00 back into a six-month CD and apply the remaining \$54,000.00 toward the purchase of the skid-steer carried.

The 2025 audit was discussed to include that it costs \$14,900.00. No action was taken.

Village of Sidney Trustee Finance Chair and Sidney Im-

provement Group President Donna Hooker asked the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees for permission to get a liquor license for Sidney Fun Daze and was granted permission to do so. She additionally reported that obtaining a liquor license is now done on line.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Streets and Alleys Chair Dan Gadeken reported that he had nothing to report.

Village of Sidney President John Finn asked Trustee Gadeken about the work he was trying to get done on David Street between Railroad and Prairie Streets and he reported that he was working on it.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Water and Drainage Chair Bret Harris asked that his community building solar agenda item be put back on the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Monday, June 1

meeting agenda.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Public Property Chair Tyler Bickers was not in attendance at the meeting. It was reported at the meeting that solicitors permit #2026-4 had been issued.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Parks and Recreation Chair Matt Laurent reported that Daren Stipp had fixed the Witt Park entrance sign and that he had done a great job.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Community Development Chair Leroy Schluter had nothing to report.

Village of Sidney President John Finn asked if there was any New and Old Business.

The board discussed properties located at 220 South David Street, 313 East Byron Street, and 202 East Main Street. Village of Sidney President Finn reported that work

on them is moving.

Village of Sidney Clerk Ashley Reinhart reported that she had gotten a hold of some Sidney residents that were here in town and at the burial of the Village of Sidney 50-year time capsule, that some of them are older and asking about chairs to sit in for the ceremony, and that she didn't know if she should use village chairs or ask the Sidney American Legion Post 433 to use their chairs for the event.

Trustee Matt Laurent stated that he would rather not have Sidney Community Building chairs be taken outside, but offered to bring some of his own chairs to the event taking place in front of the Sidney American Legion Post 433 building at 11:00 a.m. during the Sidney Fun Daze event. Nothing was decided.

An 8:47 p.m. motion from Trustee Brett Harris seconded

by Trustee Matt Laurent for the Village Board to go into executive (closed) session for the limited purpose of discussing the employment, compensation, and performance of one or more specific Village employees pursuant to 5ILCS 120/1 (c) (1) carried.

Your correspondent was unable to stay to see if the board came back with any decisions and departed at 8:50 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney. All monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

Memorial

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fired followed by live Taps being played at each cemetery and at the Philo Veteran's Monument in downtown Philo.

The Homer American Legion Post 290 will host an 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day ceremony at the G.A.R. Cemetery in Homer. A free will offering (donations of choice) smorgasbord will follow the ceremony at the Jack Ellis Community Center. The smorgasbord is sponsored by the American Legion Post 290 Auxiliary Unit 290.

A 1:00 p.m. Memorial Day ceremony will take place at the Rantoul Family Sports Complex Veterans Memorial. The complex is located at 744 S. Murray Road in Rantoul. Members of both the Rantoul American Legion Post 287 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6750 color guards will participate in the ceremony.

Champaign-Urbana – Memorial Day, May 25, 2026

• Memorial Day observances begin with a 9:00 a.m. ceremony at Woodlawn Cemetery put on by the Champaign Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5520. There will be a keynote speaker, clergy will be present for a prayer, and a 21-gun salute will be fired followed by the playing of live Taps.

• The AMVETS Post 3 will host their annual 10:30 a.m. Memorial Day service at Grandview Memorial Gardens located on Rt. 150 west of Champaign. There will be a keynote speaker, a presentation of the colors by the Richard L. Pittman Marine Corps League Detachment #1231, and a 21-gun salute will be fired by the Champaign Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5520 followed by the playing of Taps. The Toast of Champaign will sing a few songs and the Heritage Girls will perform a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

• Memorial Day will be ob-

served by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 630 with an American Flag raising at 11:45 a.m. followed by the playing of Taps and a 3:00 p.m. moment of silence. Both events will take place in front of the Post Home located at 1303 E. Main Street in Urbana.

• American Legion Post 559 will host a 12:00 p.m. Memorial Day service at the Lincoln Memorial Gardens Cemetery located at 1803 North Coler Avenue in Urbana. The main entrance to the cemetery is off of Lincoln Avenue. The VFW Post 5520 Honor Guard will post colors and fire a 21-gun salute.

• The Champaign American Legion Post 24 will not be having its annual Memorial Day program inside the Mount Hope Mausoleum, but the Champaign American Legion Post 24 Honor Guard will provide a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps west of the Mount Hope Mausoleum in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Champaign at 2:00 p.m. Post 24 decorates the veter-

an's graves at Mount Hope and Roselawn Cemeteries.

Savoy – Memorial Day, May 25, 2026

• American Legion Post 1492 will have an 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at the Savoy Veteran's Memorial located in front of the Robert C. McCleary Municipal Center at 611 N. Dunlap. Diane Ducey will be the MC and there will be several guest speakers including Savoy Village President John Brown, Post 1492 Chaplain Bud Vandiver, and keynote speaker American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois Auxiliary President Jill Layton. Scout Troops 13, 1, and 55 will post colors and perform Taps at the ceremony.

Don't forget to fly your American Flag at half-staff from sunrise to noon. Those with a flag pole attached to their home can hang a black ribbon on the flag from sunrise to noon to symbolize the flag being flown at half-staff.

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MEMORIAL DAY

Remember and Honor

May 25, 2026