



Southern Champaign County TODAY

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Better Newspapers Inc.

May 20, 2026



Fun Day Committee Meeting

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

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.

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.

Caregivers group

If you are caring for a loved one (spouse, parent, child with a disability, etc.) there is a caregivers group where people share experiences, suggestions, and resources. They meet at the Zest for Life Center in Villa Grove, 610 East Harrison at 1:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. They are a free and informal group. If you have questions, text or leave a message at 217-369-7071.

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
TO OUR COLUMNISTS:
10 a.m. Friday prior to publication

Memorial Day Services and Ceremonies for 2026

By Ann Rhoton SCCTP
News Correspondent

America pays tribute to its fallen military heroes on Memorial Day Monday, May 25. The following are some local Memorial Day observances being held in honor of our fallen military heroes. Your correspondent hopes readers will be able to attend one of these ceremonies or to take part in the 3:00 p.m. local time national moment of remembrance established by congress during which folks are asked to take the time for a one-minute moment of silence to remember the service men and women who have paid the ultimate price for our country.

Surrounding Areas – Memorial Day, May 25, 2026

• The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will have their Memorial Day ceremony at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Sidney begin-



ning at 10:00 a.m. A cannon provided by Jim Wood will be fired and a 21-gun salute will be fired by the Sidney American Legion Post 433 Honor Guard followed by the playing of Taps.

• The Philo American Legion Post 1171 will host Memorial Day services at 9:30 a.m. at the Philo Veteran's Monument in downtown Philo followed by a 10:00 a.m. ceremony at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery located by the Immaculate Conception Church in Bongard, a 10:30 a.m. ceremony at the Calvary Cemetery located one mile east of Philo, and an 11:00 a.m. ceremony at the Locust Grove Cemetery in Philo.

Veterans' graves will be marked with an American Flag, names will be read, and a 21-gun salute will be

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Village of Sidney Board of Trustees holds Hump Day Meeting

By Ann Rhoton SCCTP
News Correspondent

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, May 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, Dan Gadeken, and Matt Laurent. Trustee Leroy Schluter arrived at 7:25 p.m. and Trustee Tyler Bickers was not in attendance.

Village of Sidney President John Finn congratulated Franzen on how well the event had gone.

Business owner Brett Franzen went on to report on a downtown problem with young folks on scooters in the downtown area and was told by President Finn that the village has no way of enforcing any laws, rules, etc. and that he thought that the best option was to complain to the young people's parents.

Colton Allen was in attendance at the meeting per the direction of Champaign County to obtain Village of Sidney Board of Trustees extraterritorial jurisdiction approval for his land located outside of the village within the 1.5-

mile village extraterritorial jurisdiction. A motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent to approve the first extraterritorial jurisdiction option presented carried.

Brett Franzen from The Goose & The Gander, LLC reported that his and the Sidney Improvement Group's Saturday, May 9 Sidney Spring Fling event had gone really well and he thanked Donna Hooker, the Sidney Improvement Group, and the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees for all of their help with the event to include use of village garbage cans.

Village of Sidney President John Finn congratulated Franzen on how well the event had gone.

Winston's Old Bank owners were in attendance at the meeting to discuss Winston's and the Sidney Saloon desire to host a Saturday, June 20 street dance in the downtown area between Byron and Railroad Streets from 3:00 p.m. – midnight with bands performing from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. and from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Village of Sidney Clerk Ashley Reinhart provided them with special use permit paper work they need to fill out and get back to her ASAP.

Mr. Foster also brought up for discussion an area where concrete is migrating down to the creek bed

and a storm drain on Byron Street by the Sidney Saloon that needs work. Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts reported that the drain is full of gravel. Nothing further was addressed.

Cub Scout Pack Troop 55 member Soren Davis who was working on an Eagle Scout project reported that he and his team of 16 had been 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 that they were finished with the project.

President John Finn congratulated Soren for the amount of people he had working there and for the wonderful job that they had done and Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Parks and Recreation Chair Matt Laurent also thanked Soren for the great job that they had done.

Winston's Old Bank owners were in attendance at the meeting to discuss Winston's and the Sidney Saloon desire to host a Saturday, June 20 street dance in the downtown area between Byron and Railroad Streets from 3:00 p.m. – midnight with bands performing from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. and from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Village of Sidney Clerk Ashley Reinhart provided them with special use permit paper work they need to fill out and get back to her ASAP.

Village of Sidney Trustee and Sidney Improvement Group President Donna Hooker told the business owners that they may want to let the Premier Cooperative grain elevator located at 301 South David Street in Sidney know about the event and when it is taking place.

There were no additional comments from the public and President Finn moved on to ask trustees to look at the Monday, April 13 regular meeting minutes and to approve them if they so choose. A motion from Trustee Leroy Schluter seconded by Trustee Bret Harris to approve the Monday, April 13 regular meeting minutes carried.

Village of Sidney President John Finn began his comments by reporting about garbage trucks in the alleys and that it is an ordinance violation. It was decided that no new ordinances needed to be made and that the individuals with issues would try to handle the issues themselves.

It was reported at the Monday, April 13 meeting 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 was on hold due to not having a location for the siren.

The new siren project is no longer on hold as the Village of Sidney has found a new location and is scrapping efforts to put it in the Dunlap Woods area of town.

A motion from Trustee Bret Harris seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent to locate the new ESDA tornado siren on the Sidney Community building lot located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney carried and the village will next obtain three quotes for hooking up electric to the soon to be erected siren.

Village of Sidney Clerk Ashley Reinhart provided a General Code update/estimate under President Finn's comments. A motion from Trustee Leroy Schluter seconded by Trustee Dan Gadeken for the Village of Sidney to spend \$2,500.00 for the update/estimate carried.

Folks will now be able to visit the Village of Sidney website to see the General Code and new updates as they are made.

Lastly, Village of Sidney President John Finn stated that he would like to look into a TIF District for the village. Further discussion will be added to the Monday, June 1 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

Village of Sidney Attorney Marc Miller was not in

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Our schedule has changed —
All ads, legal notices, submitted photos, and editorial copy will need to be in by 12 noon Fridays starting with our next edition. Thank you for your help, and we look forward to your submissions. Email office@thecounty-chronicle.com.