

Rocket Nation

By Diane Ducey

Summer is underway! I'm so grateful for the teachers, administrative and support staff in our schools that deserve this break! My friend, Susanne Gately, is one of those people that has been serving our young Rockets in Unity West for over twenty years as a nurse. After working to get our kids feeling better, giving proper medication to those in need and doing first aid on students it's nice that she can

spend more time in the garden, with her family and doing more at church! It's not quite retirement with Nurse Gately's plan to sub and help out when needed, so she won't "miss her kids" so much! It's great that she steps aside with a smile talking about Unit 7 being such a nice place to work and how wonderful it is to be in this commUNITY. Thanks for helping our kids stay healthy Nurse Gately!



Susanne Gately

Summer is always a great time in Rocket Nation! I love seeing so much activity in our area parks and am glad our volunteer park board commissioners have done a great job with the recreational spaces and organizing the teams games plus getting the officials that work them. Selling \$10 raffle tickets to people coming to cheer on their players had me talking about Tolono Fun Day plans with our festival agenda on the back.

The summary for Friday, June 26th highlights the 25/8 Xtreme features including a zipline between 4:30-8:30pm along with music on a big stage this year! With America's 250th birthday, the Village of Tolono is hoping for more people to attend and their trustees suggested more 8-passenger golf carts to pick up visitors in with parking lots, like the Busey location. Extra drivers will be needed as our volunteer coordinator looks for help on that duty as well as monitoring the streets during the 5k race Friday, June 26th at 6pm then the Golf Cart Parade at 7:30pm and the Drone Show at around 9pm!

The parade at 11am Saturday, June 27th has a 10am line up at East Side Park. It wraps up at West Side Park and in that area, we'll ask vehicles with sirens to not blare them in that block off Holden between Whitehead and Condit to be sensory friendly and not disrupt the animals getting ready to meet visitors at the petting zoo. The Kiddie Tractor Pull (brought to you by Martin Equipment) has a 12:30pm registration with the 1pm

pulling competition free for kids to participate (certain weight categories for prizes). We're happy a volunteer is coordinating the old fashioned "Cake Walk" like back in the day! Committee members have been to PTO meetings and sent requests to service organizations like scouts and churches with youth groups to see if we can do more carnival style games for the little ones again between 2-4pm in West Side Park (in case you'd like to volunteer for that!)

We're glad the new Philo Exchange Bank location is coming along off Route 45 in the old Village Pet Doctor location with their staff helping sponsor the sound stage bringing on Levi Riggs from Nashville and one of the bachelors from "Farmer Wants a Wife" from Homer, IL, Braden Pridemore will perform with music Friday 5-11pm. KAAMS Auto Repair has also stepped up as a sponsor and on Saturday afternoon, there could be an opportunity to show off talents on stage if a musician or singer reaches out soon! The local group "Dream Catchers" plans to perform along with "We Got it Covered" who will do a bunch of patriotic songs as the fireworks show gets ready to start at 9:15pm. Raffle winners, a flag ceremony, National Anthem and recognition of America's 250th birthday will all be part of the Fun Day plans as the patriot pyros prepare to light the fuses with a soundtrack playing to capture the spirit of living in this great country! For details visit TolonoFunDays.org

Sidney

Continued from page 1

ticket, but hadn't brought any money to the meeting so he will contact him at another time to purchase a ticket.

McLane then asked if there was anything new on the Sidney Veterans Memorial and was told by President Finn that there wasn't.

Mark Luedke from Solar Energy Solutions located at 1807 S. Neil St., Champaign was in attendance at the meeting and he presented the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees with a \$67,223.40 quote to put solar on the Sidney Community Building with a possible six-year, five-month payout start on the solar investment.

The board decided to put the solar topic on the Monday, July 6 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees meeting agenda after asking a few questions.

A Sidney resident was in attendance at the meeting to ask the boards' opinion on what to do about Homefield Energy and the letter that had been sent out by them to Sidney residents about electric aggregation.

President Finn stated that he was staying with Ameren and opting out of the Homefield Electric Aggregation. The resident thanked him and said that is what he will do.

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

Village of Sidney President John Finn began his comments by reporting that the Carso property on the south side of Main Street across from the Longview Bank and Casey's General Store that is for sale needs to be annexed in to the Village of Sidney in order to be able to do anything with it as

Champaign County holds that the land is too small to do anything with it.

The property owner has several folks interested in possibly purchasing the property, but if it stays with Champaign County anyone who buys it will not be able to do anything with it other than mow the grass.

Once the property is annexed in to the Village of Sidney the property owner will be able to sell the land to someone who can do something with it.

There is currently one person interested in buying the property to put RV storage units on it and another wanting to put in a gaming parlor/laundromat with the ability to sell liquor, but the Village of Sidney is out of liquor licenses to issue and would need to consider the possibility of adding another license to their liquor ordinance.

Village of Sidney Clerk Ashley Reinhart will speak with the property owner to see if they would like the property to be annexed in to the Village of Sidney, get a letter from them saying so if they are, and go from there.

Discussion of three bids received to hook up electric to the soon to be erected ESDA tornado siren on the Sidney Community Building lot at 211 East Main Street took place under President Finn's comments. A motion from Trustee Dan Gadeken seconded by Trustee Bret Harris to spend \$3,110.00 with Davis Electric located at 1212 E. University Ave. Ste A., Urbana to hook up the ESDA tornado siren carried.

Village of Sidney President John Finn reported that a representative on TIF Districts will be coming to the Monday, July 6 meeting to discuss and answer any questions the board might have about TIF Districts.

Lastly on the agenda under President Finn's comments was the approval of Sidney Purchase Policy Resolution #2026-R-01. It was decided to address this at the end of the meeting.

Village of Sidney Attorney Marc Miller was not in attendance. His partner Gavin Gunter was in attendance, but

had nothing to report.

Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts alerted the board and entertained discussion about the Sidney property located at 106 South Eldorado being zoned commercial and asked if it shouldn't be rezoned residential. No action was taken.

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 May as presented with no additions carried.

A motion from Trustee Dan Gadeken seconded by Trustee Bret Harris to give \$7,000.00 to the Sidney Improvement Group for the Sidney Fun Daze carried following discussion amongst members of the board.

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

Village of Sidney Trustee Bret Harris 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 spoke about Homefield Energy and questioned whether a village electric aggregation program is needed.

Trustee Leroy Schluter asked about getting out of the program and letting Sidney residents know that they can pursue an electric aggregation agreement individually if interested as residents should not have to opt out of the agreement in order to stay with Ameren.

Village of Sidney Clerk Ashley Reinhart will call Homefield Energy about the village agreement and see what can be done.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Public Property Chair Tyler Bickers was not in attendance at the meeting. Village of Sidney Clerk Ashley

Reinhart reported that there were no building permits issued.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Parks and Recreation Chair Matt Laurent had nothing to report.

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

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Streets and Alleys Chair Dan Gadeken led a discussion on whether to approve Sidney Purchase Policy Resolution #2026-R-01 and provided some changes he would like to make before approval of the resolution.

The changes that Trustee Gadeken wanted were made on the resolution paper work and Attorney Gavin Gunter will make the changes and get the final resolution paper work back to the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees.

A motion from Trustee Dan Gadeken seconded by Trustee Bret Harris to approve Sidney Purchase Policy Resolution #2026-R-01 with the changes carried.

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.

President Finn additionally reported that the plan for the 50-year time capsule had not changed, that he is looking into funding for the Sidney Veterans Memorial, and that he is looking forward to the upcoming Saturday, June 20 street dance.

Village of Sidney President John Finn brought the meeting to adjournment at 9:25 p.m. following a motion from Trustee Matt Laurent seconded by Trustee Bret Harris.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, July 6 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.

The Sidney Scoop

By Ann Rhoton

Phone 217-688-2812



Look for your correspondent's June 1 Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Meeting Coverage published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 will hold an American Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day Sunday, June 14 at 5:00 p.m. in front of the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney. The public is invited to attend and the American Legion Post 433 hopes that folks will attend this very respectful American Flag retirement ceremony.

The Sidney American Le-

gion Post 433 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney on Monday, June 15 at 6:00 p.m. Prospective new members are always welcome and encouraged to attend and all monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held at the Post Home.

The Sidney American Legion Post 433 are running a meat raffle again this year. There are 750 tickets to sell; ten tickets per book for \$10.00 a ticket.

The meat being raffled is for beef, the winner will be announced at the end of the Saturday, July 25 Sidney Fun

Daze Car Show, and the winner can take the meat or a cash amount to be announced.

Tickets can be purchased from Sidney American Legion Post 433 Commander Bill Hensch who can be reached at (217) 649-6989, Sidney American Legion Post 433 Adjutant/Service Officer Bill McLane who can be reached at (217) 390-2196, or any other Sidney American Legion Post 433 member.

Winston's Old Bank and the Sidney Saloon are coming together to host a Saturday, June 20 Street Fest in the downtown area between Byron and Railroad Streets from 3:00 p.m. – midnight with bands

Urgent

Continued from page 6

"Every unit of lifesaving blood on an ambulance, emergency medical helicopter or in a hospital didn't get there by accident. It's there because someone rolled up their sleeve to give blood," adds Coberly.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to

make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height

and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disas-

ters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media