



Southern Champaign County TODAY

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Better Newspapers Inc.

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Menards Food Drive

June 1 until July 31, 2026. Your local Menards home improvement store is now serving as a drop site for a local food pantry during the months of June & July, 2026. We're excited to participate in this wonderful opportunity while lending a helping hand to the community during the next three months.

Menards offers a wide variety of non-perishable food items that can be donated to the food pantries, from boxes of cereal to cans of soup that can be found in our grocery department for immediate donation. There is a large collection box near the exit doors to place donations.

Please contact Menards Spokesperson, Jeff Abbott, at jabbott@menard-inc.com or 715-864-2658 for more information.

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.

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.

Tolono Fun Days scheduled

Tolono Fun Days will be Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27 and the volunteer board has a lot of events planned for residents and visitors celebrating America's 250th birthday. West Side Park will host people between 4-11pm looking for food/drinks, arts and crafts vendors and the main stage with music as well as features from the 25/8 Xtreme company bringing in a zipline, bounce pad, obstacle course, dry slide, vertical extreme, rock climbing wall, bounce house, foam party and inflatable ax throwing. 5K participants will be getting ready for the race by the Scout Cabin after 5pm with it starting at 6pm (must use Runner-SignUp registration soon (\$35) to be able to get a shirt) There is a route change to have more of straight ways on the west side of town with a turn around out by Premier Co-op. The Golf Cart Parade has line up at the Village of Tolono office on Strong Street at 7:30pm, judging at 7:45 then starts at 8pm. Organizers believe the route may be quicker as our community prepares for the Drone Show around 9pm with a section of Condit being shut down over by the corner woods

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Severe thunderstorms create high winds, clean-up for Tolono Public Works department



Alarms and sirens went off in southern Champaign County June 11 as phones displayed the severe thunderstorm warning that was going through the area. Diane Ducey took these pictures in downtown Tolono as the Fun Day committee wrapped up their planning meeting quickly to get home to family and take shelter. Tolono Public Works crews were called to help with storm damage as broken tree branches fell on cable TV wires on Walnut. Tolono Village office secretary Brandy Dalton said there would be brush pick up into the next week to get caught up after the high winds caused damage to trees and some property with reports of some power outages, too.

Committee plans for higher costs for freedom celebration

The Champaign County Freedom Celebration committee planning America's 250 on the 4th of July has seen donations going down over the past few years as rising costs of fireworks has made volunteers search for other ways to make the budget ends meet for our areas premier patriotic party. Stevie Jay Broadcasting's team had aquired a Keaton Wagler signed shirt after the (then 18 year old) freshman players 46-point game against Purdue in January 2026. As Wagler enters the NBA draft June 23 and 24 in Brooklyn, New York, local interest in his story put it as a top prize on Flag Day, June 14th with the randomly selected winner who made at least a \$25 donation at July4th.net being from Tolono. Illini and St. Louis Cardinals tickets were also drawn with more prizes to be given out before the fireworks on the 4th of July, including \$250, tickets to a NASCAR event in Indy July 25th and Busey donated some "golf themed" baskets.

Just before Flag Day, on Saturday June 13th, representatives from the Champaign County Freedom Celebration came to the



Cattle Bank location at First and University where the Champaign County History Museum kicked off their events to celebrate USA's Semiquincentennial with a flag ceremony, a proclamation from the City of Champaign's Mayor Deb Frank Feinen, music from the Toast of Champaign and the Declaration of Independence read by four people in our community. Festive buttons, copies of the Declaration of Independence as well as

refreshments were handed out to around 75 people attending this special kick off event. The Champaign County Freedom Celebration volunteers present were all smiles as the History Museum members talked about what an honor it was to be tapped as Grand Marshals in the 4th of July parade at 11:05am with their famous antique Popcorn Wagon as one of the units in their entry at the beginning of the parade, that will also be out in the

Stadium Terrace (Lot 31) during the evening program from 6-9pm. Those attending will hear the band "Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets" play music before the flag ceremony from the Champaign Fire Department, patriotic music and brief commorative speeches as a tribute to our nation and community's history.

As the program wrapped up in the parking lot across from the Champaign Police Station, the museum president, TJ Blakeman, reminded those attending about the Champaign Public Library having over 20 items on display June 18 through 21 as a special exhibit showing signatures from many of our founding fathers of our nation, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and the "Common Sense" publication from Thomas Payne, just to name a few! Walk ups are welcome of course, but those wanting to attend without a wait are encouraged to reserve their time online to see the "Forging Liberty" attraction by visiting the website ChampaignCountyHistory.org

The Tolono Historical Society & Veteran's Museum beginnings

Fun Day has selected The Tolono Historical Society & Veteran's Museum as Grand Marshal for the Tolono Fun Day Celebration.

"The Society was established in May (and first met June 13, 2003) in the former newspaper building at 101 East Holden Street. Newspapers were published from the building for about one hundred years", said Bill

Kirby. According to Alice Strickland, "There was a grocery store prior to the newspaper that was run by Barbara Kleiss' grandfather. Also, there was a library in the back of the building." Bill, in 2004, said that this building "marks the location where the history of Tolono, now covering 148 years of discovery, settlement, and develop- ment, is

being collected, studied, & written. It offers interesting programs & a place to learn about Tolono's past. In December 2003, records show that the Officers were President-Bill Kirby, Vice-President-John Frothingham, Secretary-Janet Cler, and Treasurer-Marge Biale-schki. Those officers served on the Board of Governors along with:

Barbara Barnhart, Anna Jane Bretzlaff, Marcia Davis, Loren Harden, Aleela McCleary, and Alice Strickland.

Membership, in addition to the Board of Governors, included: Denny Davis, Betty Dyher, Kay Frothingham, Norma Kirby, Mark Lovingfoss, Virginia Lov-

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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. Thank you for your help, and we look forward to your submissions.
Email office@thecounty-chronicle.com.