

Rocket Nation

Continued from page 1

Nate Park who worked central command for security and traffic patterns. We had a delay on the 6pm start with music as the Urbana Clarinet Ensemble performed music patriotic music and we had a presentation with the Champaign County History Museum as a Tribute to America's 250. Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets performed until the Flag Ceremony and National Anthem was performed by Crystal McCullough and harmonizing from Lindy Drollinger with an invocation from Rev. Michael Stoeger (Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro) At 9:15pm Pyrotecnico fireworks soundtrack aired on Lite Rock 97.5

Singer Crystal McCullough from Meadowbrook Church worship team was also the Volunteer Chair with the Champaign County Freedom



PICTURES from Champaign County's Freedom Celebration parade. More on page 6. Submitted photos.

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Celebration committee and reported over 50 people signed up to help this year.

Our evening program leads were Mike Kobel and Kyle Tendick with inflatables, a face painter and the Family First Advocacy Group had a "Foam Party" with lots of bubbles, sponsored by the City of Champaign who really came through in support this year, committed to fostering an inclusive community by addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, preventing discrimination, and supporting accessibility. As part of this commitment, the City is proud to sponsor that Kid Space at the Champaign County Freedom Celebration!" with our contact for the 2nd year on this project being Janel Gomez, Community Relations Manager & Compliance Officer with the Equity and Engagement Department.

Village

Continued from page 1

south of the walk bridge.

Mr. Foster reported that he was picking up plastic advertising signs that were blowing around all over town and stated that they needed to be picked up and thrown away.

Lastly, Mr. Foster reported that a catch basin on Main Street that is full of weeds needs to be attended to.

Sidney American Legion Post 433 Adjutant/Service Officer Bill McLane reported that the legion and Village of Sidney employees will be digging up the 50-year time capsule, see what's in it, recover it, and reveal what is in it at 11:00 a.m. at the July 25 Sidney Fun Daze.

Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts interjected that he thought that they were going to dig up the time capsule on Monday, July 13 and it was confirmed through conversation that the time capsule will be dug up on July 13 to see what's inside, recover it, and reveal its contents at 11:00 a.m. on July 25 in front of the Sidney American Legion Post 433 located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney during the Sidney Fun Daze event.

Mr. McLane asked about the Village of Sidney businesses sign and if it was ready to be put up which resulted with a discussion amongst those in attendance at the meeting as to where to get the individual business signs to put on the business sign made, the cost of having them made, and that the business owner is responsible for that.

Sidney business owner Brett Franzen mentioned that he thought there were around 12 businesses that were interested in being on the sign.

Sidney Business owner Brett Franzen reported that there was a lot of washouts of gravel, cement, and what not in areas behind businesses on the east side of South David Street from recent rains, that he didn't know what it would take to fix it, and that he had tried to put in some gravel behind his business, but that it had washed away.

Village of Sidney President John Finn told Mr. Franzen that with the road work needing to be done on South David Street it would be a while before the village could afford to do much more other road work, but asked Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts to look at it and see if something could be done to help.

Reg Ankrom President of SIMEC Energy and an Energy Aggregation Energy Broker Consultant who works on behalf of the Village of Sidney to get a better rate for electricity than Ameren spoke under public comment.

Mr. Ankrom reported that this time his company had

to go out to bid not knowing what Ameren's rate would be and that they were only able to get a rate through Home-field Energy of 11.89 which was a little higher than Ameren's rate of 11.32. He additionally noted that Home-field's rate will stay the same for the term of the contract and that it will be lower in June of 2027 at 10.54.

It was also reiterated that the opting out of the program is a requirement if you do not want the aggregation contract rate.

A discussion between trustees and President Finn took place as concerned continuing the village aggregation contract during which President Finn expressed his feeling that there should be options for electricity supply.

The board decided to keep the contract for now as the current contract term has already started. No vote or further action was taken.

The SIMEC Energy website can be found at www.simecenergy.com.

There were no additional comments from the public and President Finn moved on to ask trustees to look at the Monday, June 1 regular meeting minutes and to approve them if they so choose. A motion from Trustee Leroy Schluter seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent to approve the Monday, June 1 regular meeting minutes carried.

Village of Sidney President John Finn began his comments by reporting that there would be no report concerning solar or about TIF Districts as no one from Solar Energy Solutions or a representative on TIF Districts were in attendance at the meeting to make presentations.

It was reported that a letter of resignation received from Village of Sidney Trustee Tyler Bickers needed to be notarized before the board could vote on accepting it and before Village of Sidney President John Finn could appoint a new trustee with the board's approval. Further action will have to wait until the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees Monday, August 3 meeting.

No one from the Carso or Mumm properties was in attendance at the meeting so their property annexations could not proceed.

Village of Sidney employee's health insurance was discussed under President Finn's comments. A motion from Trustee Matt Laurent seconded by Trustee Bret Harris for the Village of Sidney to keep the same health insurance carried.

Village of Sidney drainage issues were discussed under President Finn's comments, but no action was taken.

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 Presi-

dent John Finn asked Village of Sidney Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Butts if he had any comments and he reported that he didn't other than to present the two tree bids he had gotten; one for \$6,764.00 and one for \$5,650.00 to take down two bad trees; one on Bluff Street and another in Sidney that are dying and falling down.

A motion from Trustee Leroy Schluter seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent to have Leaf It to Us Total Tree Care LLC out of Villa Grove Illinois take down the two trees at a cost of \$5,650.00 carried.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Finance Chair Donna Hooker was not in attendance at the meeting.

Village of Sidney President John Finn gave the finance report and, during the report, announced that there was \$400.00 in the Sidney Veterans Memorial account instead of the \$300.00 that had been in the account as of the June 1 meeting.

Your correspondent asked where the additional \$100.00 had come from and was told that a \$100.00 donation had been given by an anonymous donor.

President Finn 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 Leroy Schluter seconded by Trustee Bret Harris to pay all of the monthly bills for June as presented with no additions carried.

There was no streets and alleys report as Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Streets and Alleys Chair Dan Gadeken was not in attendance at the meeting.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Water and Drainage Chair Bret Harris spoke about the need to raise Sidney Community Building rental fees as they are not covering the costs of building and employee expenses.

A decision to change rental rates for Sidney residents to \$300.00 up front with them getting \$100.00 back if the building is cleaned up, keys turned in, and procedures of renting the building are followed and to change rental rates for non-residents to \$450.00 up front with them getting \$100.00 back if the building is cleaned up, keys turned in, and procedures of renting the building are followed was approved following a motion from Trustee Leroy Schluter seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent.

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 building permit #814 and permit #2026-02 had been issued.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Parks and Recreation Chair Matt Laurent reported that ball games

were over and that he had received lots of compliments on how the tournaments had been run.

Village of Sidney Board Trustee and Community Development Chair Leroy Schluter stated that he would go around town, pick up, and throw away plastic advertising signs of businesses that had not asked for permission to put them up.

He reported that as a courtesy he had at one time picked up some business signs and, because he knew there was an expense for them, had called the business and told them that they could pick them up at the Village of Sidney Maintenance Shed.

Schluter stated that a week went by and they never came so the signs were thrown away and that he would not be reaching out to businesses concerning their signs.

Trustee Schluter reported that the Sidney Fun Daze will take place on July 24 and 25 and that folks should come out, participate, and enjoy the Fun Daze.

Lastly, Trustee Schluter reported that Village of Sidney limb pick up takes place the first full week of the month from April to November, that limbs should be placed at the front of the front yard on the curb and be no longer than six feet and no bigger than four inches in diameter, and that plastic bags should not be used to package the limbs.

Schluter additionally reported that he will have this information posted at the Village of Sidney website.

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.

He also asked some questions of the Village Attorney about how to handle some property problems and asked for some letters to be written.

Village of Sidney President John Finn brought the meeting to adjournment at 8:53 p.m. following a motion from Trustee Leroy Schluter seconded by Trustee Matt Laurent.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, August 3 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.

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