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12 PAGES

Chatter BOX

Lane closed in Tuscola

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that traffic on U.S. 36 in Tuscola will be restricted to one lane beginning Monday, Sept. 25, weather permitting. The closure is necessary to accommodate repairs to the bridge that carries Interstate 57 over U.S. 36. The work is expected to be completed by Thursday, Oct. 5, weather permitting. You didn't want to go to Tuscola, anyway.

New contributor at Record-Herald

The Record-Herald welcomes Kim Buckley as a part-time contributor. You can see that she's already making an improvement with several items this week. She has contributed photos and ideas in the past, so we finally said, hey, why don't you come work for us. She also works at the Arcola Public Library and will continue there.

Show your pride

We're working on our annual Distinguished Alumni special section. This year, we're expanding it to include the 100th birthday celebration for Arcola High School. If you're an alumni, you can show your pride, too. Check out the announcement on page 3 for details.

No decision on trash franchise

By David Porter

Perhaps in a perfect world, a single trash truck traverses a city with its friendly staff emptying dumpsters and picking up yard waste and recyclables, all for a low rate. If only it were that simple.

The City of Arcola surveyed residents about their preferences when it comes to trash removal. Some people don't want brush burning. Some want to be able to recycle. Everyone wants to pay less. But the survey results were

few and as mixed as a bag of trash.

Alderman John Guyot said the survey supports the status quo. "If it's not broke, don't fix it," he said.

But Alderman Mark Smith said the survey was inconclusive.

Mayor Larry Ferguson said the survey could be interpreted "either way."

It gets more complicated.

Currently, residents may choose their trash hauler. Bill Wagoner, city administrator, said most residents are using Mel's Disposal out

of Oakland and the survey showed positive reviews for Mel's. "He's a salt-of-the-earth kind of guy," Wagoner said. "He has a good client base and most seem happy."

He said Mel's has about 700 trash accounts in Arcola while



McConnell

Doty's, based in Beecher City, has about 200, and Advance Disposal has the rest.

Mel's, however, is not interested in a franchise agreement with the city, Wagoner said. He said Mel's is not able to handle some of the commercial accounts in the city and does not handle yard waste. They also do not offer recycling because there's reportedly no market for it. He said Mel's indi-

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NANCY KING MERTZ displays her painting of Arcola High School. The painting will be auctioned off during the Distinguished Alumni banquet. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

Mertz painting to be auctioned for AHS

Nancie King Mertz has created Arcola's Past & Future to commemorate 100 years of learning in the Arcola High School building.

Mertz, AHS Class of 1970 graduate and 2013 Charter Distinguished Alumna, has donated her original painting of Arcola's 100-year-old high school building to the Arcola Alumni Association.

Her artwork will be sold at auction during the Oct. 21 Distinguished Alumni banquet. The bidding process has started and will

culminate at the banquet. Proceeds from the sale of Arcola's Past & Future will benefit special projects in Arcola schools.

Mertz states, "The painting is a pastel on mounted UArt paper and framed under anti-reflective glass in our studio. I used wonderful photo reference provided by Nancy Rairden and added a few figures. Architecture is a favorite subject for me, and Arcola has a very special place in my heart, so this was truly a

'labor of love,'" she continued.

Prior to the Oct. 21 auction sale at the Distinguished Alumni banquet, bids will be accepted in person, by mail, telephone, email, etc. by contacting Sue Stout, P.O. Box 112, Arcola, IL 61910, 217-268-3190 orilstouts@consolidated.net. If unable to attend the banquet, interested buyers may submit a telephone bid or designate

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Mulligan: Achieving goals takes resources

By David Porter

It's not enough to identify a goal. It's not enough to measure progress. For some educational goals, it's going to take money. Whether that's paying teachers more to reduce turnover, buying curriculum and paying program fees, hiring additional teachers or investing more in technology equipment, Dr. Tom Mulligan wasn't specific. But he told the Arcola School Board last Wednesday that they are going to need to put resources toward goals if they want to see those goals achieved.

Mulligan, Arcola school superintendent, presented a detailed package of material regarding goals and objectives

to the School Board. He said the report was made following numerous strategic planning meetings and outlined how progress would be measured.

The report began by listing "pillars of excellence," which include learning, school culture and opportunities. It then identified advantages, challenges and goals as well as how to measure results and targets to reach. It also included past measurements for perspective and challenges that can hinder achievement.

If one has goals, there needs to be a way to assess whether they are being met, he indicated. Many of the goals have stepped-up targets meaning there is an expectation of

incremental growth over the next several years.

For instance, there is goal for more students to be reading at or above grade level at the end of third grade by the 2021-22 school year. To meet the goal, Arcola schools will need to about double the percentages at current testing levels. Mulligan told the Board that if they want to reach a goal, they are "going to have to support it with resources." The goals and objectives "should drive everything we're doing," he said.

He noted that half the kids are learning to speak English while learning everything else.

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PATTY EADIE, far right, has always used the library. She would bring her grandchildren to the library. Seven years ago, preschool for her granddaughter Lacy came to an end. So, Eadie and a couple other ladies started to meet at the library to read to kids in a group setting. After preschool started back up, Eadie and her stories stayed. She started what is now "Story Time at the Arcola Public Library." She has devoted every Wednesday morning to the library. She has a new story each week and plans a craft to go along with the stories. There is always music; one of the kids' most-loved songs is "Sticky Bubblegum." The kids look forward to story time and "Miss Patty," as all the kids over the years call her. She has a smile that can light up the room. Eadie holds story time every Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. She welcomes everyone to join in. Photo by Kim Buckley.



Blast from the past

AS YOU ARE going down Main Street, you may have noticed the small cannon sitting in the yard of the Blackwell home and wondered about the story behind it. According to the Blackwell family, the cannon was discovered in 1953 while clearing out a storage shed behind the home of Ann Selby Blackwell Clisby after her death. It is thought to be a French trench mortar, a powerful small cannon used for direct fire on targets. It was loaded with chains and black powder to cause major damage and was surrounded with sandbags to absorb the shock of firing. The cannon was brought to Arcola from North Carolina after the Civil War by the Blackwell family. In the early 1900s, the cannon was taken a mile out of town and fired. It is said that it rattled windows in Arcola. The cannon was traditionally fired after elections when a Democrat won but was never fired again after a man lost his hand. Around 1968, several young men liberated the cannon and took it to Charleston. When it was found and returned to the Blackwell home, it was set in concrete and bolted down. Bernice Blackwell said someone passing by asked to buy her cannon. And as one can see, she declined his offer. Blackwell is very proud of the cannon that has been in her family for many years. There is still a lot unknown about this cannon, but for one thing, it will remain a great conversation piece in the Blackwell family and the town of Arcola. Photo by Kim Buckley.



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