

NEWSVIEWS

EXCHANGE CLUB of MATTOON

CLUB ACTIVITIES — AUGUST 2026



August 2026



AI Has been employed in developing some of
this NEWSVIEW data



Covenant of Service

Accepting the divine privilege of single and collective responsibility as life's noblest gift, I covenant with my fellow Exchangites:

To consecrate my best energies to the uplifting of Social, Religious, Political, and Business ideals;

To discharge the debt I owe to those of high and low estate who have served and sacrificed that the heritage of American citizenship might be mine;

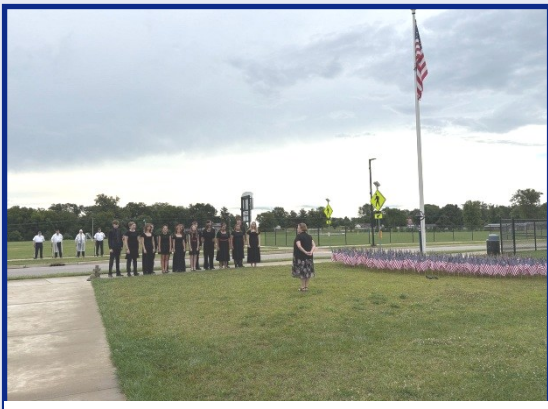
To honor and respect law, to serve my fellowmen and to uphold the ideals and institutions of my Country;

To implant the life-giving, society-building spirit of Service and Comradeship in my social and business relationships;

To serve in Unity with those seeking better conditions, better understandings, and greater opportunities for all.

RUN FOR THE FALLEN

Rain did not stop the committed from showing up Saturday morning to honor the nation's fallen service members. The Illinois Run for the Fallen hosted its 17th annual event. This year's celebration carried extra significance, marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Every mile run during the event was dedicated to a fallen Illinois service member. By the end of the morning, participants completed a total of 816 miles. Participants were asked to walk or run one mile for a fallen service member but could choose to complete as many miles as they liked.



CITY MANAGER KYLE GILL

Mattoon City Manager, Kyle Gill provided the club with an update on the City's Strategic Plan, road construction, I-57 project, and Lake Mattoon status.

The city's water treatment plant with \$5.0 Million being spent on an ozone treatment process alone. There is \$1.1 Million to be spent in the coming improvements in the water treatment plant.

New road project with, impediments identified, includes the Walmart Loop that will provide access to Walmart property and added access to the new roads out to the sports complex, motels, and shopping areas. The Sword Drive extension to the new Rural King development properties as well as travel access to Dewitt Avenue. The I-57 bridge and road improvements should be let for contracting soon.

New construction at existing businesses continues and a new facility is currently being permitted South of the old General Electric building.

President Maxedon thanks City Manager Gill for his time.



EXCHANGE CLUB of MATTOON 2026-27



Board member Larry Gutzler, Secretary Dennis Booker, President-Elect Dave Coen, Treasurer Robert Riggert, Board member Lindsay Sewell, Board Member Brian Gillaspie, President Larry Maxedon, Past-President Lucy Perkins. {Division Director Max Jaeger shown in preparation}

MATTOON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Mattoon High School Football Coach and Dean of Students Chad Augspurger introduced his new roles in Mattoon. Coach Augspurger outlined his more than twenty years of experience as a secondary educator, mentor, and coach. His most recent employment was Gibson City–Melvin–Sibley High School (GCMS), where he has taught social studies, U.S. History, Civics, while also serving in a variety of schoolwide roles.

The club found the development program planned by Coach Augspurger to the football team outstanding. Team members must develop a strong commitment to academic development, accountability, and positive school climate. As head varsity football coach at GCMS, Mr. Augspurger compiled a 28–14 record over four seasons and led the program to the IHSA Class 1A State Quarterfinals in each of the past three years. Prior to serving as head coach, he spent seven years as an assistant coach at GCMS and was part of the coaching staff that won back-to-back IHSA Class 2A State Championships during the 2017 and 2018 seasons. His coaching career reflects sustained achievement, program stability, and a strong focus on teamwork and student-athlete development.

President Maxedon is shown presenting a check supporting the Mattoon High School sports program to Coach Augspurger.



MAJOR CHARLES BLAKELY HALL

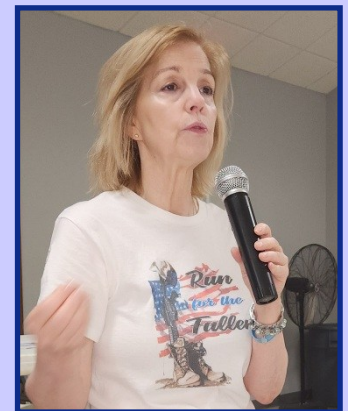
Carolyn Cloyd produced with Eastern Illinois University, WEIU & PBS an informative documental video of Major Charles Blakely Hall. Major Hall has recently been recognized as a notable student at Eastern Illinois University.

Hall was raised in Brazil Indiana then after excelling in academics, football and track and field at Brazil High School he attended Eastern Illinois University, majoring in pre-Medicine. While at Eastern Illinois, Hall participated in sports. He did not graduate from EIU, rather in 1941, Hall enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. The U. S. Army Air Corps later became the United States Army Air Forces. During World War II, although not an administrative echelon, the Air Corps remained as one of the combat arms of the Army until 1947.

In 1942 Hall was assigned to Tuskegee, Alabama, to attend Advanced Flight Cadet Training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield. On July 3, 1942, Hall graduated from the program's fourth Cadet Class Single Engine Section SE-42-F, earning his wings and a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant.

During World War II, Hall, nicknamed "Buster", flew 198 missions over North Africa, Italy, the Mediterranean and Europe. On his eighth mission in the European Theater/Mediterranean Theater on July 2, 1943, Hall and his squadron escorted B-25 medium bombers on a raid on Castelvetro Airfield in southwestern Sicily, Italy. Flying a P-40, Hall shot down a German Focke-Wulf Fw 190 Würger. Hall became first African American combat fighter pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft.

On June 18, 2002, the Tinker Heritage Airpark was renamed the Major Charles B. Hall Airpark, in honor of Major Hall, a Tuskegee Airman and highly decorated pilot from the 99th Pursuit Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group. He was also the first African American awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Carolyn Cloyd



MAJOR CHARLES BLAKELY HALL



The CURTIS
P-40
WARHAWK

NORTH AMERICAN
P-51
MUSTANG



FREEDOM SHRINE DEDICATION ASSEMBLY



State Senator Rose



President Maxedon, Senator Rose Principal Hagen



Past District President, Charter Member J Parker



Dean of Students Waller, Principal Hagen, President Maxedon, State Senator Rose



FREEDOM SHRINE DEDICATION @ ST. JOHN'S LUTHERN SCHOOL AUGUST 2026

FREEDOM SHRINE

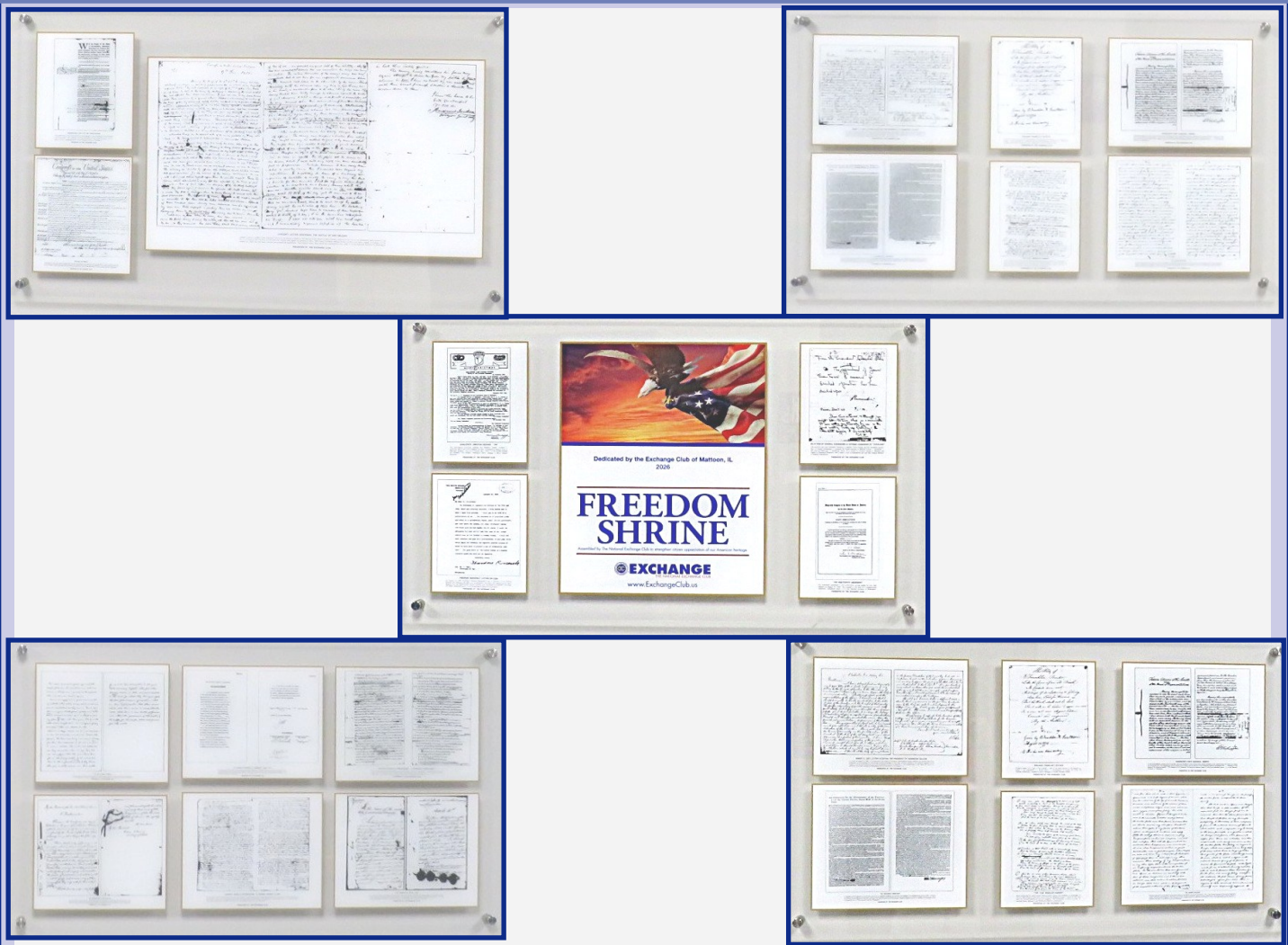
The Freedom Shrine grew out of the Freedom Train, a 1947 traveling exhibit of historic documents.

Today, the Freedom Shrine® features photographic reproductions of twenty-nine original American documents displayed in thousands of locations nationwide.

Its purpose is to remind Americans that the freedoms they enjoy were passed down through the idealism, determination, and sacrifice of courageous men and women before them—and that freedom, as a precious gift, must be continually guarded and protected.



St. JOHNS LUTHERN SCHOOL — 2026



CELL PHONES
OFF OR SET
TO VIBRATE
@ MEETINGS

Thanks!



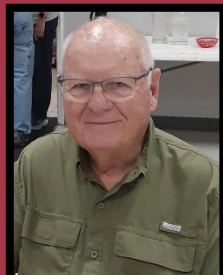
EXCHANGE
www.mattoonexchange.org

Wednesday Mornings
7:00 am American Legion

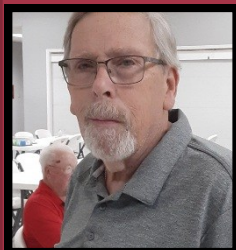


Exchange Club of Mattoon
P O Box 1452
Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Larry Maxedon



Robert Riggert



Dennis Booker



Dave Coen



Lucy Perkins



2026-2027
OFFICERS
EXCHANGE CLUB
of MATTOON

President

Larry Maxedon

President Elect

Dave Coen

Secretary

Dennis Booker

Co-Treasurers'

Robert Riggert & Dave Coen

Past-President

Lucy Perkins

March 27, 1976

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

CLUB ACCOUNTS

July, 2026

Operations Account:

\$2119.96

Project Account:

\$7718.26

Scholarship Account:

\$103.82

Scholarship CD

\$8628.28

Cash Account:

\$125.70



EXCHANGE

www.mattoonexchange.org



THINKING

“The man
who com-
plains about
the way the
ball bounces is
likely the one
who dropped
it.”

Lou Holtz

MEETING PROGRAMS

SEPT 2

CASA

KIM CARMEAN

SEPT 9

ST. JUDE RUN

DUANE DETERS

SEPT 16

HARRINGTON GOLF

ROCKY REYNOLDS

SEPT 23

MATTOON LIBRARY

CARL WATWORTH

SEPT 30

CLUB MEETING

RAMBLINGS

“The only people who
aren’t going to be criti-
cized are those who do
absolutely nothing.”

Lou Holtz