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# Edwardsville the Intelligencer

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## Police report 4 vehicles burgled Saturday

1 car was stolen plus a handgun, cash, debit cards and more

By Charles Bolinger  
STAFF WRITER

EDWARDSVILLE — Four vehicle break-ins occurred in the Esic Area of Edwardsville during the early morning hours Saturday, according to Police Chief Michael Fillback.

"No one was injured and we do not currently have any leads on suspects," he said. "All the vehicles involved appeared to be unlocked and items taken included a handgun, cash, debit cards and other miscellaneous items."

He added that in one of the in-

cidents, the vehicle was stolen: a black 2020 Honda Accord sedan.

"As always, we would encourage residents to lock their vehicles and take valuables inside the residence or secure out of sight inside the vehicle. Never leave keys (or keyfobs) to the ve-

*"All the vehicles involved appeared to be unlocked and items taken included a handgun, cash, debit cards and other miscellaneous items."*

Michael Fillback

hicle or to another vehicle in a vehicle."

In the event residents do hear or see suspicious activity, they should contact the Edwardsville Police Department immediately, so officers can check the area. If anyone has information that can assist with these cases, they should contact the department's investigations division at 618-656-2131.

## Inspired by her mother

Juanita Shaw honored as a YWCA Woman of Distinction

By Dylan Suttles  
STAFF WRITER

EDWARDSVILLE — Juanita Shaw knew the path that she would follow at a young age due to the influences in her family.

Her mother, S. Regina Shaw, was her main inspiration. She volunteered when she was a child at her school and in the community, worked with the League of Women Voters and the National Council of Negro Women

"And she did all of that while raising her seven children and a few of her grandchildren," Shaw said.

Her great aunt, Alma Aitch Jackson, was another inspiring person in her life. She was a teacher during segregation in Edwardsville and a poet.

"She inspired me to always support children in and out of the classroom," she said.

Her father, Herman Shaw, is also an inspiration.

"He was a principal most of my life and before, during, and after work, he always did what was for the betterment of children," Shaw said. "He still does community volunteering in Edwardsville. So, I just have it within me to volunteer and always do what I can to support my community."

While she was little, she discovered the YWCA. Living on E. 7th Street at the time, Shaw would walk over to "watch other girls doing things that I never thought I could be a part of." Eventually, her mother signed Shaw up to take gymnastics and take swimming lessons from time to time.

"The YWCA made me feel special," she said. "It was only girls there and everyone treated each other the same. There was no one telling me that I couldn't be a part of something because of the color of my skin. So, the

*Shaw continues on A5*



Volunteers from Rebuilding Together Southwest Illinois gather for a photo after working on a project at a house in Edwardsville.

For the Intelligencer

## Rebuilding Together lends a helping hand to people in need

Nonprofit aims to do more 100 home repair projects this year

By Scott Marion  
STAFF WRITER

EDWARDSVILLE — Chris Azar is busier than ever these days, and he couldn't be happier.

Azar is president of Rebuilding Together Southwest Illinois, an all-volunteer group that helps repair and renovate homes, particularly for low-income senior citizens, veterans, people with disabilities and families in need. Azar's chapter serves Madison County and surrounding counties and is part of the nation's largest nonprofit dedicated to preserving

affordable homeownership and revitalizing neighborhoods.

"We've been doing some amazing things in the community," Azar said. "For example, from 2015 to 2019, we averaged providing free home repair services to an average of eight homes a year. When we became an all-volunteer organization in 2020, we worked on 17 homes. In 2021, we worked on 36 homes.

"In 2022, we worked on 52 homes. Last year, in 2023, we provided free home repairs to seniors and veterans to 92 homeowners in our local area.

In 2024, we are aiming for over 100 homes. We've expanded our service area from Madison County only into some of the more rural counties of Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Bond, and Clinton Counties on a case-by-case basis."

The continued growth in the number of projects for Rebuilding Together couldn't happen without volunteers, and their number has grown as well, with many organizations, companies and individuals donating their time and skill. The local chapter had more than 360 volunteers last year.

Last year at this time when

Rebuilding Together did 92 homes, it had 12 projects completed. So far this year, it already has 32 projects completed.

"We have so many amazing volunteers. For example, I got a call last week from the Illinois National Guard and they asked if there were any volunteer opportunities," Azar said. "They said they could have 20 to 25 people, so I tried to set something up for them. They told me they needed to do it last Saturday and I thought a wheelchair ramp project we started a couple days earlier would be a

*Rebuilding continues on A5*

SAT. MAY 4TH!

**GRAFTON'S READING IN THE PARK WITH PAIGE**

The Grove Memorial Park

Corner of Market & Main St. Grafton, Illinois 62037

• Admission: FREE Event • Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

WITH PAIGE! 4 OF KMOV NEWS @ GROVE MEMORIAL PARK

A Bad Day Fishing

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# REBUILDING

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good project for the guardsmen to finish on Saturday.

"Phillips 66 came out on Thursday, and they got the project done in four hours. On the way home, I got a call from a homeowner, and she said was leaving the hospital in a week and she wanted to know if we could build her a ramp. That was perfect timing because the guardsmen needed something to do on Saturday."

Olin Winchester is among the corporate sponsors for Rebuilding Together and has helped on many projects. Military personnel from Scott Air Force Base also volunteer on a regular basis.

"The volunteers are going to help out on a big veterans' project we have coming up in May and we have two veterans' projects this week," Azar said. "One is in Greenville and the other is in Madison and they're both wheelchair ramps."

## Helping Rebuilding Together expand

Azar noted that the increase in volunteers, along with an increase in donations, has enabled the local chapter of Rebuilding Together to expand its services beyond Madison County.

"Some of our patrons and the people who provide us with grant money have been looking for people who can go into the more rural areas," Azar said. "It's all about a balance of having the funding, the volunteers and the projects."

Large companies such as Home Depot have also stepped up to help Rebuilding Together expand the number of its projects.

"Home Depot is providing all the materials



Photos for the Intelligencer

Volunteers from Phillips 66 finished a Rebuilding Together Southwest Illinois wheelchair ramp project April 18 in Madison.

*"... She said was leaving the hospital in a week and she wanted to know if we could build her a ramp. That was perfect timing because the guardsmen needed something to do on Saturday."*

Chris Azar

for the veteran's wheelchair ramp in Madison and they're also sending out a crew to tear down the existing unsafe ramp and then rebuild it," Azar said. "Lowe's is another amazing sponsor and



Volunteers from Phillips 66 finished a Rebuilding Together Southwest Illinois wheelchair ramp project April 18 in Madison.

they recently donated \$6,000 and we have the opportunity to apply for another \$6,000 grant."

Azar added that Rebuilding Together with officials from several of the cities that the organization serves.

"I just met with Mayor Mike Parkinson from Granite City and they're working on a new statute that says nonprofits that do business in their community for ADA equipment and wheelchair ramps and things like that, they will waive the fees, especially we are not charging people for the projects," Azar said.

"I also met with Mayor (John) Hamm from Madison and they're doing the same thing, as is Collinsville. It's a great to work within the communities that appreciate us."

Rebuilding Together is preparing to start a capital campaign to raise much-needed funds for upcoming projects.

"The Agency for Community Transit helps us with the wheelchair ramps in Madison County and Marillac Mission Fund is another group that helps us in the more rural counties," Azar said. "We've got great sponsorship but we're always looking for more people who are interested in helping us. Every penny goes back into helping folks out."

To volunteer or to request home repair and renovation services from Rebuilding Together, go to [rebuildswi.org/](http://rebuildswi.org/), call 618-960-2440, email [help@rebuildswi.org](mailto:help@rebuildswi.org) or visit Rebuilding Together on Facebook.

"We're going to be looking for new board members because we have some folks that are timing out," Azar said. "It's a great organization and we're always looking for more people to join us."

# SHAW

From page A1

YWCA has always played an important part of my life."

Shaw is a 1983 graduate of Alton Sr. High School. She achieved a BS in Elementary Education from Harris Stowe State University in St. Louis, an MA in Education-Curriculum & Instruction specializing in Computer Education, and an MA in Education Leadership, both from the University of Phoenix.

She is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and as a part of this sorority, it has allowed her to work with the partnerships the group has with March of Dimes, St. Jude, and more. She worked with the Corey Johnson Foundation and also the Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation. She has worked with the Christine L. Brice (CLB) Foundation during the Juneteenth Celebration for the past couple

of years. She also belongs to the NAACP and Urban League. She volunteers with the Historic Lincoln School Alumni Foundation in Edwardsville. She is also on the board of the Ride4Hope Foundation, an organization that supports women with cancer. Growing up, she was a member of the Girl Scouts for 10 years.

She has two adult children, Nakita and Malcolm, and three grandchildren, Vincent and the twins, Navi and Nalonn.

One of Shaw's goals is to have a recreation center in Edwardsville where students can come for free and get help with their studies and learn how to give back to their community by doing community service projects with her. In addition, she wants to retire from the Missouri Department of Education and return to Alton to give back to the school district that started her educational journey.

"I want to have a connec-

tion with both communities so that the children that I volunteer with, in both cities, all connect with each other and learn from one another as well," she said.

She encourages young women to never give up and be the change in your life that you want to be.

"Just always know that there are people that care and don't be afraid to ask for encouragement," Shaw said. "I didn't know how special I was for a long time. When I used to feel low, instead of always downing myself, I found myself doing something positive for someone and it made me feel better. Every day isn't going to be sunny. But those are the days you have to find the sunshine within yourself and shine bright."

*This story is part of a series of stories about the honorees for the YWCA Southwestern Illinois 33rd Women of Distinction Celebration planned April 25 in Godfrey.*

# Woman crashed into building, killing birthday boy and his sister

By Corey Williams  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Michigan woman was arraigned Tuesday on second-degree murder and other charges after prosecutors say she drunkenly crashed her SUV into a boat club that was hosting a child's birthday party, killing the 4-year-old birthday boy and his 8-year-old sister and injuring several other people.

Marshella Chidester, 66, did not enter a plea to the eight counts she faces in Saturday's tragic crash at the Swan Boat Club in Monroe County, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Detroit.

During a court hearing that was livestreamed, Chidester's right arm was in a cast from just above the elbow to her fingers. She has been jailed

since the crash and the judge set her bond at the \$1.5 million prosecutors requested after relatives of some of the victims asked him to set it at that level.

In arguing for the \$1.5 million bond, prosecutor Jeff Yorkey told the court that Chidester has had substance abuse issues that were corroborated by her friends and family.

Defense attorney Bill Colovos asked the judge to set Chidester's bond at \$100,000. He said she only had a glass of wine and a bowl of chili four hours before the crash, and that she has suffered since November with "epileptic-type seizures in her legs."

"This is not a monster," Colovos said. "It's horrible what happened, but there are some things we don't have control over."

Colovos added that prior to Saturday's crash,

Chidester had no traffic tickets or police record.

Yorkey responded that there was no indication that Chidester suffered a seizure before the crash and that testing showed her blood alcohol level was "significantly over the legal limit."

If Chidester posts bond, she will be required to forfeit her passport, have no alcohol, wear a tether and not drive. A probable cause conference has been scheduled for April 30 followed by a May 6 preliminary examination.

Chidester is a former commodore at the boat club, The Detroit News reported.

The crash killed 8-year-old Alanah Phillips and her 4-year-old brother, Zayn Phillips, the sheriff's office said. Their mother and another sibling were among the injured.

## Armed Forces Day is May 18th!

*Pay Tribute to your loved ones currently serving or who have served our country!*

**Lance Cpl. Dustin Rister**  
Hometown: Jerseyville  
**USMC**

**We will be running a special section honoring our local servicemen and women on May 18th. The deadline to participate is Wednesday, May 15th., so complete the form and return it with your payment of \$20 for each entry.**

# Yes!

**Please include this photo on the Armed Forces page May 18th**

Call Julie at 618-208-6445 for additional information. E-mail your information to [Julie.Jones@Hearst.com](mailto:Julie.Jones@Hearst.com) or Mail to: The Telegraph, Armed Forces Day Page, P.O. Box 278 • Alton, IL 62002, Attn: Julie

Soldier's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Special Message \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the publication of this name and photo.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't miss this opportunity to show your support for our local servicemen & women!**