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Nazarene church to commemorate National Day of Prayer

Hoopeston Community Church of the Nazarene is marking National Day of Prayer, May 5, with special activities.

On Wednesday, the church will show *Let Us Pray* at 7 p.m. The video includes a history of prayer in the United States and the testimony of William Murray, son of atheist Madeline Murray O'Hare.

Thursday, May 5, the church will be open all day be-

ginning at 6 a.m. for anyone in the community who would like to come in and pray. Prayer guidelines from the National Day of Prayer Task Force will be available.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, the church will hold a special *Concert of Prayer* service for the world, nation, community and church.

Hoopeston Community Church of the Nazarene is located at 402 E. Honeywell.

Keep Vermilion County Beautiful sets program, seeks walkers

Keep Vermilion County Beautiful is giving something away at one event and hoping to get volunteers for another program.

KVCB and the Tilton Burger King are teaming up for an event free for county children. Spot Less, the Keep Vermilion County Beautiful mascot, will be at the Tilton Burger king, 1629 N. Georgetown Rd., from 1-4 p.m. Saturday. "Children will be able to get their pictures taken with Spot Less," said Lynn Wolgamot, KVCB coordinator. "Kids love Spot Less and this will be a chance to give him hugs and get their pictures taken with him."

In addition, children will be given free packets of seeds. "They can take with them the seeds to plant flowers and beautify their yards and neighborhoods,"

Police News



While on patrol, officers found a window broken at the former Phillips 66 gas station in the 200 block of West Main.

Antowan E. Flores, 31, of 710 Wyman, Hoopeston was arrested at 10:32 p.m. Sunday at 710 Wyman. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 25-year-old Hoopeston woman and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to

Wolgamot said.

In the other activity, Keep Vermilion County Beautiful is looking for people who like to walk and who hate seeing litter on the streets and roadways.

"We think it's a match made in heaven," Wolgamot said. "For people who are already in the routine of walking for exercise and relaxation, picking up litter along the way seems to be a natural fit."

KVCB organizers are offering free bright orange "pickers" (called OranUTongs) to the first 30 walkers who will commit to picking up litter along their walking routes on a regular basis. The only requirement is that walkers answer a survey mailed to the three times a year about how much litter is being collected. Those answering the survey will be entered in the KVCB "Litter Lotter" with a chance to win a cash prize three times a year.

Keep Vermilion County Beautiful is made up entirely of volunteers from across the county. The local organization was certified in 2002 and has organized various clean up and beautification activities throughout the county. KVCB goals include litter prevention, education and beautification.

For more information on KVCB and its programs, call Wolgamot at the Vermilion County Health Department, (217) 432-2662 or email lwol-

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100s new summer clothes just arrived priced to sell.

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hoopeston.org**
Email: additions@
hoopeston.org.



Cemetery changes require action

Floral Hill holds a piece of most of us in that some of our loved ones are there, and it is to their continued honor that we decorate their graves and place monuments that we feel they would have liked upon their final resting place. Speak up for those who can not speak, our loved ones!

I am writing this letter in hopes that the residents of Hoopeston will speak up and voice their opinion as to how our city leaders are telling us how and when we can honor our departed loved ones! Attend the next city council meeting, post your replies to this publication, call your other local news agencies.

So what is going to happen to all the work that a lot of us have placed into the current grave sites? Are they going to require us to change them to meet their "New Standard"?

I feel that when this issue was originally brought to the table, there should have been an opportunity for a publicly-attended city meeting or at least a posting that this would be discussed at the next city council meeting. But no, it was slid in behind our backs, and enacted without any opportunity for the people's voice to be heard,

once again dictating to us what and how we are to honor our loved ones!

The Just the Facts article states the new regulations that are going to be in place for the Floral Hill Cemetery. I did not see nor have I spoken with anyone who was informed of any chance for public input in this matter. I feel that it is completely beyond comprehension that the "convince factor" plays in when it comes to how those of us who are still able are allowed to honor our departed loved ones.

I have personally taken my lawn mower out to the grounds and mowed our plots when they looked less than attractive, and the same with a weed eater. There is never a holiday that there has not been some type of decoration on our family grave plots since they have been occupied!

It is a simple matter of how convenient it is to maintain the grounds at the Floral Hill Cemetery, period that is where the buck stops!

The city charges each individual for the plot. The cost is based upon where in the cemetery the plot is located. Then, upon a person's death, they charge an additional fee for opening the grave. What happens to

the money in the time span between purchase and death? The opening and closing of the grave should be included in the complete price for that family choosing Floral Hill as their final resting place.

Furthermore, the way that each individual is allowed to honor their departed loved one is now being dictated. There are many, many individuals who plant elaborate and quite expensive displays of their affection, and long hard labor of love to those who have passed on. They continue to maintain those plantings throughout the season, by very frequent visits with watering cans, and time spent weeding etc.

Now they are being told that they must be in urns or have flowers attached to the grave stone. What about those individuals who can not afford the elaborate plantings, and choose to place small flower canisters in front of or behind the grave? Are they being denied their right to express their loss and respect for those departed?

There is also the issue about the fish pond. It was a gracious gift to the city for the installation of it and it was to everyone's delight that the city took the initiative to rehabilitate this beautiful addition to our cemetery. Now they complain about having to maintain this. Just how expensive can four tractor size inner tubes actually be? The same goes for the leaf netting. Is it not easier to keep a beautiful thing maintained once in place than to just simply fill it in and sell off the grave places! The fish pond has brought many hours of relaxation to a large portion of our community and is a source of local pride when we speak of our cemetery.

Floral Hill is not one of the new cemeteries where all the grave markers are plaques flush mounted to the earth so that when mowing they can be mowed over. We have an old cemetery that is a piece of our history.

I feel that if this is the attitude that Hoopeston officials have in regards to the cemetery then it may be

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 57. Tonight, patchy frost. Low 33. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 64, low 42.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston

time to contract out its care and maintenance to someone who cares.

Jeff Keith
Hoopeston

Floral Hill rules should be reconsidered

In regards to the city officials' regulations on Floral Hill, who gives them the right to dictate what can and cannot be put on the graves of or loved ones? People send lots of money on decorations for the departed loved ones and then they say no flowers are to be stuck in the ground. That is the only way to keep things from blowing away. There are many people - I, for one - who put home-made small grave decorations on my parents and sister's graves going with the seasons. They have wire stakes in the ground to hold the in place and are removed before the time for removal comes out in the paper. People go there to see the beautiful flowers on the graves. Does this also mean that the deceased veterans can't have the flags stuck in the ground? And why is it so hard to keep the pond maintained? Jack (Miller) spent a lot of hard work doing that and they say it is too costly. Maybe if they had someone who knew how and how often, it wouldn't cost \$8,000 to \$9,000 to maintain it. It seems to me they don't want to do the work, let alone have the know-how. I have seen people out there with their own weed eaters and grass clippers doing their own grave upkeep, myself and son included. I really think this is going to step on a lot of people's hearts and graves.

J. Akers

Obituaries

AQUINO - Henry Raphel "Hank" Aquino, 73, of Rossville died at 5:40 p.m. Saturday, April 30, 2005 at home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Resurrection Cemetery's Mausoleum Chapel, Danville. Entombment will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Danville. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Monday at Sunset Funeral Home, Danville. Memorials are suggested to Holy Family School or Holy Family Catholic Church. Condolences may be offered at www.sunsetfuneralhome.com.

CUNDIFF - Viola Berdina Cundiff, 82, of rural Danville died at 8:56 p.m. Saturday, April 30, 2005 at Vermilion Manor Nursing Home, Danville. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Johnson-Lakeside Funeral Chapel, Oakwood. Burial will be in Trimmel Cemetery, Newtown. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Ms. Cundiff was the sister of Francis Cundiff of Hoopeston.

RUSCH - Frank Rusch, 81, of Hoopeston died at 2:50 p.m. Sunday, May 1, 2005 at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Arrangements were incomplete at Wolfe Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Hoopeston.

New Books at the Library



Non-fiction

Boredom Blasters by Helaine Becker
Encyclopedia of Aquarium and Pond Fish by David Alderton

The Loathsome Dragon by David Wiesner
Oh, No! Where are My Pants? And Other Disasters by Lee Bennett Hopkins

The Voice That Changed a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman

Classifieds

HOUSES FOR RENT

East Thompson, Hoopeston. Available May 15. 2 BR, basement, garage. \$350/mo. No pets. References (217) 304-3477

HOUSES FOR SALE

Must sell: 2 BR home in Hoopeston. Appraised at \$24,000, asking \$15,000. (217) 283-4782

LOST & FOUND

Gold & silver clip on earring lost Sunday at Hoopeston Area High School auditorium. Last gift from late husband. If found, call (217) 283-7289.

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