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Festival admission fee has Hoopeston resident steaming

An admissions policy change for the 1996 Sweetcorn Festival has at least one local resident more steamed than the corn that will be served during the event.

For previous festivals, a \$1 admission fee was charged on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday of the event. No admission was charged on Sunday.

This year, however, the Hoopeston Jaycees, festival sponsors, approved charging \$1 admission on Sunday, Aug. 1 and dropping the fee on Thursday and Friday.

For Hoopeston resident George Crews, the change is unconscionable. "It's not right to do this to the people," Crews said at Tuesday's Hoopeston city council meeting. "It's their day. It's not bargainable."

Crews said documents deeding the land from Jacob S. McFerren to the city stipulated that Sunday be a free day of admission to the park.

However, Mayor Bob Ault cited the 1901 deed transferring the property, which stipulates that for the city to keep the land, it must remain a public park and that the name not be changed from McFerren Park.

The lack of documentation did not daunt Crews. "It may not (be written down)," he said, "but it's been upheld by city governments all this time. Whether it's in there or not doesn't matter."

The decision to charge Sunday admission was not an easy one for the Jaycees to make, said festival chairman Bob Porth. "We argued long and hard on this issue," he said, adding the group discussed charging \$2 admission on other days and leaving Sunday free but "they felt that was too radical a change."

Porth said the change was made to increase festival revenues, which have declined the last five or six years.

"We argued long and hard on this issue."

Bob Porth

"That's the mainstay for many of the projects we do throughout the year," he said.

While revenues have dwindled, festival costs have increased. For example, insurance costs have doubled since last year, Porth said. "We've looked for things to cut," he said. "We've made some but we cannot find anything else to cut.

This was the only area that we had some control over."

The group thought local people would benefit from free admission on Thursday and Friday, while the Jaycees could benefit from out-of-town visitors on Sunday. "Out-of-town people don't bat an eye about the dollar," Porth said.

Crews disagreed with the rationale, saying there is little to draw people on Thursday or Friday. "You don't have anything to offer them on those two days," he said.

Resident Jean Minick questioned the definition of public park, which, city attorney Paul Manion said, is one owned by a governmental unit. "Public park doesn't mean you get to go there for free," he said.

Minick then suggested an option for those who do not want to pay on Sunday. "I have the solution," she said. "The park opens at 9 a.m., so go there at 8:30 a.m. That's what I do on Saturday because I refuse to pay to get into the park."

Manion said that while the Jaycees rent the park from the city, it is too late to change the situation this year. "You could change it in the future, but I wouldn't recommend it," he said. "You're inviting more problems than it would solve."

Crews was unhappy with the council's lack of action. "If I walk in there on Sunday, I'm not paying a dime," he said. "And you better not touch me."

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Briefly

Boy receives superior rating at fair

A Hoopeston boy received a superior rating on a rocket project at the Illinois State Fair.

Mark Powley, son of David and Barbara Powley, received the rating in judging last Thursday.

Judging was done not only on appearance, but also on the exhibitor's knowledge of the project.

Powley, a member of the Fountain Creek 4-H Producers, is in his first year of rocketry.

Meeting scheduled

The Hoopeston Area school board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the high school library.

Multi Agency van, activity schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency senior van is: Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville.

To make reservations or for more information, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Activities at the center include Thursday, men's coffee, 9 a.m.; men's euchre, 12:30 p.m.

Bowling meeting scheduled

The Thursday Night League will meet at 7 p.m. Aug. 22, at Parkview Lanes.



Police News



Bill Orr, 741 E. Main, reported Tuesday that someone took both passenger side hubcaps from his 1992 Mercury. The theft occurred when the vehicle was in the city parking lot in the 300 block of East Main St.

A 16-year-old boy was charged at 2 p.m. Tuesday

with retail theft (shoplifting) from Pamida Discount Center, Hoopeston Plaza.

According to police reports, the boy took 3 compact discs valued at \$55.22.

The boy was released to an adult family member on a notice to appear.



Court dispositions



Aug. 1: Michael E. Mahorney, Rossville, disobeyed traffic control device, speeding; bench trial Oct. 3.

Samuel Montaya, Hoopeston, no valid driver's license, failed to appear; warrant issued.

LeAnne Mills, Rossville, uninsured; nolle pros.

William Mitchell, Hoopeston, uninsured, speeding; pleaded by mail.

Angelique Rivera, Champaign, speeding; bench trial Oct. 3.

James Roach, Hoopeston, failure to signal, failure to wear seat belt; forfeited license.

Brian Morlan, Hoopeston, status, failed to appear; warrant issued.

Ryan Cade, Hoopeston, illegal transportation, one red tail light; pleaded by mail.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Aug. 19, 1996

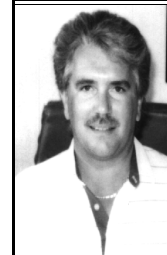
Admitted: Faye Williamson, Rossville; Oleta Reed and Camilla Bertram, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Mostly sunny, hot and humid today. High near 90. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low in the low 70s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 94, low near 74.



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Classifieds

GARAGE SALES

318 N. Seventh St., Hoopeston. Saturday, Aug. 24, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Large 3-family sale. Lots of household and miscellaneous.

707 S. Chicago, Rossville. Aug 23-24, 9 a.m.-? Clothes, books, glassware, exercise equipment, computer and much more.

213 E. McCracken (in alley). Aug. 23, 9-3, Aug. 24, 9-? Lots of clothes, knick-knacks, some exercise equipment, etc.

HELP WANTED

Wanted: harvest help. Inside and outside. Good starting wage. Call Kaufman Grain, (217)397-2235.

222-236

Auto technician with experience. Must be reliable and good with public. Apply in person, Beaty's Auto Sales & Service, 301 S. Market, Hoopeston.

Full and part-time help needed at the Feedbag, Route 1, Rossville. (217)748-6201.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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