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Wednesday, July 16, 1997

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Residents complain of keeping afloat in sea of water bills

Some Hoopeston residents feel they're drowning in water bills and want to know why.

At Tuesday's city council meetings, residents questioned why they have received water bills, including charges for garbage pick-up, in 21 day cycles.

Mayor Bob Ault explained the city has gone to a new system of calculating bills using hand-held computers. The system, he said, will expedite work for water department employees and will keep bills more current.

Implementing the system means residents will receive two bills in one month, before the cycle returns to normal, he said.

Residents may deduct the trash pick-up fee from the second bill they receive or the amount will be credited on a future bill, Ault said.

It was the second garbage bill that caused concern for

some aldermen. "People said their water bill was lower but they were paying garbage 21 days apart," said Alderman Harold Cox.

Ault stressed that by deducting the second trash bill or receiving a credit in the future, residents would only pay 12 trash charges, not 13.

Alderman John Haughee suggested the change could have been handled better. "It would've been nice if we could've kicked this around before we went through with it," he said. "Aldermen were caught off guard."

In unrelated action, Ron and Barb Knuth, owners of Knuth's Body Shop, requested a change in a newly-implemented vehicle towing policy.

Knuth's, which has provided towing service for the city for 12 years, is now splitting the business with Paul's

Merchants to thank residents with Customer Appreciation Day

If there's no such thing as a free lunch, don't tell the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce.

The group is hosting Customer Appreciation Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 19, said Robin Lawson, chairman of the Chamber's promotions committee.

Free hot dogs, pop and popcorn will be served in the mini-park between Global Fashions and Rhonda's Baskets, Lawson said.

Also, five \$20 prizes of Chamber Bucks will be given away. Chamber Bucks are promotional money issued by the Chamber to encourage shopping in Hoopeston, Lawson said.

Food will be served from a large tent, and the city will provide picnic tables and trash cans in the area.

Lawson hopes for a massive turnout. "We'd like to see the whole town of Hoopeston come out," she

said, adding her committee is planning for 300 to 500 people.

The event is a combined effort of 36 Hoopeston businesses, she said. Some donated money to pay for drinks and advertising the event, while others donated food items.

Popcorn, including the popper, will be provided by the Lorraine Theatre. "So you're not just getting popcorn; it's Lorraine Theatre popcorn," Lawson said.

Besides a free lunch and a chance to win spending money, the Chamber will showcase the vehicles that are part of the Great Car Giveaway which will be held during Labor Day weekend's National Sweetcorn Festival.

On display will be a Chevrolet Malibu from Read
See THANK on other side

**Not just any vase.
Not just any rose.**

A beautiful keepsake crystal vase
and Grand Gal rose.

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Residents continued from other side

Auto & Truck Repair of Wellington.

The couple object to the change for several reasons, including the fact that Paul’s is located in Iroquois County, is further away from the city, and may be under-equipped, under-trained and improperly licensed.

“He don’t have the equipment or the know-how,” Ron Knuth said. “He may not have an (Illinois Commerce Commission) license.”

Kelnhofer could not be reached for comment, but stated earlier that he is properly licensed for towing.

Police chief Carl Valentine decided to alternate months between the two companies, said Sgt. Steve Bane. The change began June 1, he said.

Valentine was not at the meeting.


“Kelnhofer came to the chief and the chief said ‘Why should one person monopolize the towing business,’” Bane said.

Ron Knuth said he does not believe the chief should make the decision. “We wasn’t even aware of it until the chief and the other party had it all cut and dried,” he said. “I don’t think a man from another state has the right to make that decision.

Barb Knuth said the company has had an oral agreement with the city. “I have a copy of that agreement,” she said.

Also, she claimed Valentine was rude to her when she asked him about the change. “I was told by the chief that I should stay out of my husband’s business,” she said. “I own the business with my husband.”

Alderman Mark Drollinger, a Vermilion County Sheriff’s Department investigator, sided with the Knuths, saying using an out-of-county firm adds “another cog in the evidence chain.”



The Surgeon General has determined that everyone should get 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five days of the week...

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If vehicles are towed to Iroquois County, Drollinger said, officials must deal with another jurisdiction. “Watseka’s probably as close as Danville,” he said, “but there’s a light-year’s difference between the courts in Watseka and Danville.”

However, Bane said, the police have an agreement with Gossett’s Body Shop so vehicles are not towed to Iroquois County.

Bane added the change was not made because of a problem with the Knuths. “As far as the police department itself, we don’t have a problem with your service,” he said.

The city’s police committee will meet at 6 p.m. July 21 to discuss the issue. The Knuths, as well as Kelnhofer, will be invited to attend the meeting.

In other business, Haughee said police will more stringently enforce curfew to cut down on crime.

Curfew for children 16 and younger is 10 p.m. Sunday

★

Police News

Constance F. French, 101½ E. Main, reported Monday that someone took a black leather fanny belt from her home.

French later told police that the fanny belt had been found.

James Kessinger, #33 Parkview Court, reported Monday that someone took a girl’s 24 inch 10-speed bicycle from his home. The bike is purple with a pink seat and handle grips.

Frank Duncan, 918 S. Second Ave., reported Monday that someone took a 26 inch 10-speed Rock Slide bicycle from Pamida, Routes 1 and 9. The bicycle is teal with a black seat and black foam handle grips.

Daniel R. Miller, 20, of 119 S. Dixon, Rankin, turned himself in to police at 8:18 p.m. Monday.

Miller, wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear, was released on \$529 cash bond.

Juan Colunga Jr., 19, of 323 N. Sixth Ave., was ticketed for improper backing following an accident at 9:28 p.m. Monday in the 200 block of South Third St.

Police said Colunga backed his 1993 Ford into a parked 1995 Chevrolet owned by Mary K. Swim, 914 W. Washington.

through Thursday and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Bane said.

Curfew violators must be picked up by their parents, Haughee said

Bane said theft and vandalism are committed “about 50-50” between children and those over 16.

Thank continued from other side

Pontiac, Buick, Olds, Chevrolet; a Ford Ranger from Crown Ford and a Dodge Stratus from King Motors.

Each of the vehicles is valued at approximately \$15,000.

“People can come out and look at the vehicle they might win and maybe buy a ticket (for the drawing),” Lawson said.

Customer Appreciation Day is part of the Chamber’s Christmas in July promotion. Local

Obituaries

ARMSTRONG - Ward C. Armstrong, 71, of Bella Vista, Ark., formerly of Hoopeston, died at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, July 12, 1997, at home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at the First Christian Church, Hoopeston. Burial with military graveside rites will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-8 p. m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials, in lieu of flowers, are suggested to the Ward C. Armstrong Memorial Golf Scholarship, c/o Ann Smith, 1612 Lindberg, Carterville, IL 62918.

In the Hospital

+

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
July 14, 1997

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Mabel Sorenson, Hoopeston.

Weather

☀

Sunny today. High in the mid 90s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 60s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 94, low near 72.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 bedroom furnished apartment. Ideal for 1 person. Water and heat included. \$210/month, \$210 deposit. Call (217) 283-9310. 197-206

GARAGE SALES

418 N. Ninth Ave., Hoopeston. Saturday, July 19, 9 a.m.-?

HELP WANTED

Experienced waitresses. All shifts available. Excellent pay rate and good tips. Apply in person at Feedbag Restaurant, Rt. 1, Rossville or call manager at (217) 748-6201. 197-206

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

The village of Rossville is accepting sealed bids for the following items:

1. Chevrolet 1983 ¾ ton 4X4, 6.2 liter diesel. Engine runs, transmission out. Transfer case - 4 wheel o.k., body rough. Has hydraulic & hookup for 8’ western plow.
2. Eight foot western plow - well used.
3. Meyer salt spreader - 8 hp B/S engine. Engine used 1 season. Minimum bid \$250.

All above located at the Village Maintenance shops. To view, see Lance or Geoff.

Sealed bids to be turned in to the Village Office. Bid closing 5 p.m. July 21. Bids will be opened July 21 at the regular board meeting.

1992 Oldsmobile 98 Regency Elite. Low mileage, garage kep. \$11,500. Lumber: 70’ hackleberry, \$1.50/ft.; 56’ 1X6 oak, \$1.50/ft.; 36’ 1X12 oak, \$2.50/ft.; 10 inch Sears radius arm saw, \$100; sleeper couch, \$200. Call (217) 283-5910. 197-199

72” oak sink base, \$150; Magic Chef self-cleaning glass top stove, \$200; older full size topper, \$150; used gas stove, \$65. Call (217) 283-5454 evenings. 196-198

PRODUCE

Fresh produce. Home grown sweet corn ready now. Vincennes, Ind. melons, tomatoes, green beans. Call Jonathan, (815) 457-2055. 197-210

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1977 MG Midget convertible, red. (217) 283-6323. 192-198

1967 Ford van. Good shape, needs transmission work. \$1,250. Call (217) 283-6463.