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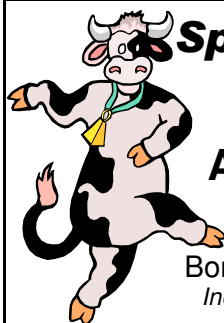
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Rose – and other colored – glass to be seen at old city hall

New owners of the old city hall building will be looking through rose-colored glasses – and blue, green, red and yellow glass, too.

The Hoopeston city council Tuesday night approved selling the building, at the corner of Penn and Market, for \$11,500 to Linda Maszka of Chicago.

After renovating the structure, Maszka plans to use the building to repair and create stained glass windows, said Alderman Bill Goodwine.

Renovations will include sandblasting and installing new drywall. Maszka also plans to place stained glass windows over old windows that have been blocked in to give the building more curb appeal, Goodwine said.

Goodwine said the bid was “multiples of” four other bids received for the building and the proposed use for it “would be a nicer attraction to downtown, I think” than uses suggested in other proposals.

Mayor Bob Ault said Maszka will begin renovating the building upon possession. The sale is expected to be finalized in approximately 30 days, he said.

Courts must crack down on violent youth: police chief

Juvenile crime is up and the court system is largely responsible, according to Hoopeston's police chief.

Since 1980, crimes committed by youngsters have increased to the point where one of every four offenses is committed by someone under 18, said Carl Valentine at Monday's Neighborhood Watch.

Valentine cited other statistics, including the fact that Illinois ranks second in the nation for juvenile homicides committed with a gun and that in five years, violent crime among juveniles and adults is expected to increase 86 percent.

A two-fold solution is needed, according to Valentine.

In other action, the council unanimously approved raising ambulance rates from \$100 to \$125, effective July 1.

Alderman David Borders, chairman of the ambulance committee, said rates have not increased since 1991-92. Although costs are rising, the rate is still less than the \$200 charged by other area ambulance services. “We're still way under what everybody else charges,” he said.

The increase will help offset the cost of paying two full-time emergency medical technicians to handle calls during the day without raising taxes, Borders said.

The city currently spends approximately \$40,000 annually on the ambulance budget, he said, adding the service handles approximately 900 calls each year.

In other business, a local paint ball field is one step closer to reality after the council took no action on a request from Tom Gustine, who plans to open the field this month. Because the field does not violate state law, no action was needed, said city attorney Jim Spiros.

First, courts must mete out tougher sentences and parents must be more responsible for their children.

“The judicial system is not stern enough on criminal offenses,” he said. “Go in a courtroom sometimes and you'll see probation, probation, probation.”

Valentine believes youngsters who commit three serious offenses should be sentenced to a minimum of 10 years' imprisonment without parole and that a youth who threatens to hurt someone with a gun should be sentenced to between 15 years and life.

Parents, Valentine said, must take more responsibility

See YOUTH on other side

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Youth continued from other side

for their children in all areas ranging from knowing where their children are to making sure family guns are inaccessible to children.

Many young offenders come from single-parent homes, living with a mother who must work and raise the children, Valentine said. "It is very hard for moms a lot of times, but still they have to be sure the kid's supervised...by someone."

To keep children from committing crimes with family guns, Valentine suggested a state mandate that guns have trigger guards to prevent youngsters from shooting them. A more watchful eye must also be kept on gun dealers "because you know darn well they're probably

selling to juveniles," he said.

Although juvenile crime is worsening, the local scenario is improving. Valentine said Hoopeston Area school superintendent Don Dean called last week, asking the two meet to discuss juvenile crime.

Addressing the drug problem in local schools, Valentine said it is not a "drastic problem" but said police "need to work closer with the school system" and perhaps have annual locker inspections.

If violent crime isn't stopped, more police will be needed and more officers will be in danger. "If we don't (do something) you're going to see more and more police officers hurt and, God forbid, killed," he said.

Chief has mixed emotions about planned local paint ball field

A planned paint ball field on Route 9 has merits and drawbacks, said Hoopeston police chief Carl Valentine.

At Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting, Valentine said he favors the field if it provides young people with something to do and is properly supervised "but I have a problem with anytime anyone points a so-called gun at anybody else," he said. "What are we teaching our kids? It's like war games."

Making sure children are watched is his prime concern. "I guess I'm most concerned about supervision

and the people who are going to be doing it," he said.

Valentine is also concerned about what happens when youngsters take their paint ball guns home. "Are parents going to be responsible enough to take them home and put the gun away," he asked.

"It all comes down to what-ifs," he said, wondering what if someone shoots the windshield of a car with a paintball, causing an accident, or if someone shoots at cars. "Am I totally against it - no," he said, but I have some concerns about it."



Court Dispositions



May 21: Sherry Garza, Hoopeston, nuisance vehicles; failed to appear, summons issued.

Diana L. Gilliam, no address, to pay \$45 fine and

costs, \$461.05 restitution; continued to June 18.

Karen Hagele, Hoopeston, battery, pleaded not guilty.

Obituaries

CAWTHORN - Stanley B. Cawthorn, 71, of Hoopeston, died at 2:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 2, 1998, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Danville. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial, with military graveside rites, will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Gifts for Yanks, c/o American Legion Post #384, 502 E. Penn, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Boil order issued

The Hoopeston water department has issued a boil order for the 900 block of East Main St. The order is effective until further notice.

Weather



Mostly cloudy today and tomorrow with a chance of showers both days. Highs 65, lows 48.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

Valentine said he has been shot at and spent four hours in surgery. Despite danger, he enjoys his job. "The reason I'm in law enforcement... is because I love it," he said. "I got out of it one time and got right back into it. I'll probably do it until the day I die."


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LOST & FOUND

Tent pole in ditch on bean plant road between Hoopeston and Rossville. If found, call (217) 339-2324 or (815) 984-5177

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