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Hoopeston to dive into savings for swimming pool repairs

Hoopeston officials will have to dive into city savings to fix the municipal swimming pool.

Repairs, including fixing the gutter and wall, replacing eight valves and tiling the entire pool, is estimated at more than \$67,000, said Alderman Mike Eckersley, city parks committee chairman.

Eckersley received the estimate from a division of Paragon Pools. The price will be valid for 30 days and does not include work to the baby pool, he said.

However, the council suggested letting the project out for bids, with work to be done in the spring. Work suggested by Paragon Pools will be used as specifications for bids.

By waiting until spring, the city will have approximately \$72,000 earmarked for pool repairs. However, repairs must be completed in order for the pool to re-

ceive an operating license next year. "There's no ifs, ands or buts, we don't have a license next year," Eckersley said., adding city applies for a license each February.

In unrelated action, the council, in a 5-2-1 vote, vetoed a suggested ordinance change that would have given the council final approval of a new police chief.

Alderman Dave Borders suggested the change, saying the police department is the city's largest department "and we have no say in what's going on."

The chief and new officers are currently hired by the police commission.

City attorney Jim Spiros suggested the council make specific changes in writing before changing the law.

Borders and Alderman John Haughee voted for the change. Alderman Harold Cox abstained.

Distributed Ku Klux Klan materials discussed at meeting

It's not every day someone strolls into the Hoopeston city council chambers wearing the robe and hood of the Ku Klux Klan.

But that happened Monday night as part of the Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Mike Bane walked into the meeting, modeling the traditional garb of the Klan.

Klan actions, including recent distribution of group pamphlets, was discussed at the meeting.

Bane said he received the robe and hood in 1978 from a Hoopeston woman who discovered them among her deceased husband's possessions. "She was deeply disturbed by them and wanted them removed," Bane said.

During the 1920s, the Klan was very active in the local area, said Hoopeston Police Sgt. Danny Danner, who headed the Neighborhood Watch meeting. Since then,

See KLAN on other side

Nat'l Wizard bans interviews

The Rev. Jeffery L. Berry, identified as the National Imperial Wizard for the Ku Klux Klan in pamphlets distributed recently in Hoopeston, declined to be interviewed for a story concerning the organization.

Contacted last week, Berry said he has enacted a six-month ban on media interviews. "They don't print the truth," said Berry, of Butler, Ind. "If they're not going to print the truth, we're not going to talk to them. Call me back in six months."

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Klan continued from other side

membership and Klan activity has decreased, but as late as the 1980s, the group had supporters in southern Vermilion County and western Indiana, he said.

The last local incident happened in the mid 1920s when an area man was tied to a tree and horsewhipped for coming home drunk on three consecutive nights and beating his wife, Danner said.

Two incidents of vandalism reported Monday including spray painting Klan symbols, but Danner doubts that is the work of real Klansmen. "That sounds to me like it's a wannabe," he said..

It's not that the Klan hasn't had local members over the years. Danner said that, as a youngster, he hunted and ate dinner with a Rossville man who, he later learned, had Klan ties.

The group can be especially appealing to young people. "There are young people out there looking for something to take ahold of," he said. "They're looking for leadership and guidance."

On the surface, Klan beliefs mirror those of many people. The group, started in the 1860s as a way to fend off Carpetbaggers during the Reconstruction, supports Christianity and is against drug use and open immigration in the U.S.

Although the group hails itself as a non-racist organi-

Police News 

A set of keys on a black cord, found last Friday, was claimed by the owner Monday.

Pedro Zarate, 223 W. Main, reported Monday that someone spray painted his 1987 Dodge van while it was parked at his home.

Money found Monday at McFerren Park was claimed by the owner Tuesday.

A boy's black Magna dirt bike was found Tuesday in the 800 block of South Fourth St. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Renee Chandler, 321 W. Washington, reported Tuesday that three unknown people tried to pry the radio/cassette player from the dash of her vehicle while it was parked at her home.

A boy's red Huffy bike was found Tuesday at 522 E. Main. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

zation, Klan membership is limited to white - "non-Jewish, non-Negro, non-Asian" - men and women, he said. "The Aryan Nation and the Ku Klux Klan are the most pro-white organizations you'll ever meet," he said.

The Klan also stresses brotherhood. Danner compared them to a motorcycle gang. "Their sworn allegiance is to their brothers," he said.

The appearance of Klan literature does not mean the group has an active presence in Hoopeston, but may mean someone will try to organize a chapter.

"There's an idiot in this town and he'll try to organize," Danner said. "Sure as I'm sitting here, it'll happen."

Distinguishing Klan members is not easy, Danner said. "How many can say there's not a true-blooded Klansman in this room," he asked. "What does a Klan member look like?"

Danner said he does not believe the Hoopeston area is being infiltrated by the group. Nor does he believe two suspicious fires in Rankin are related to the Klan. "I

Obituaries

NELSON - Georgia A. Nelson, 55, of Hoopeston, died at 3:03 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1998 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the American Heart Association.

In the Hospital 

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Sept. 14

Admitted: none.
Discharged: Robert Bell.

Weather 

Mostly cloudy, chance of thunderstorms today and tomorrow. Highs 78, lows 65.

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

doubt very seriously that that's what happened," he said. Residents should "be wary," he said. Anyone receiving Klan literature contact the police at 283-5196.

Bowling Scores 

Friday Mixed League
Ten Pin Alley, Hoopeston
Standings

1. Hoopeston Weather Line	17-4	7292
2. Pucker Up Chicken Chits	17-4	7269
3. 10 Pin Alley	13-8	6748
4. KyJ's	12-9	6999
5. R&G Services	11-10	6906
6. Party Crowd	9-12	6987
7. JRJD	9-12	6932
8. Just Call Us Butter	8-13	6994
9. 4-Play	5-16	6937
10. The Nobodys	4-17	6803

Team Game: Pucker Up Chicken Chits, 939, 863; Just Call Us Butter, 856.

Team Series: Pucker Up Chicken Chits, 2576; Just Call Us Butter, 2498, KyJ's, 2355.

Men's Game: Tony Gress, 246, 243; Jeremy Lane, 243.

Men's Series: Tony Gress, 688; Tim Coon, 644; John Lowe, 612.

Women's Game: Glenda Reed, 224; Pattie Lowe, 222, 214.

Women's Series: Pattie Lowe, 644; Glenda Reed, 617; Lori Keith, 523.

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