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Grant Township gardeners boost Food Cupboard supplies

Area gardeners are helping keep the Grant Township Food Cupboard supplied with fresh produce - and the timing couldn't be better.

Gardeners have taken a total of 539 pounds of produce to the Food Cupboard as part of the "Plant A Row" program, said township supervisor Bill Boose.

Bernie Chamberlain started the local effort two or three years ago and the program, like the gardens that supply it, has grown. This year's total to date is the largest in the local program's history, Boose said.

Under the program, gardeners donate their surplus produce - from apples to zucchini - to the food cupboard. Boose would like to see more gardeners participate, "especially if they're going to throw it away anyway. If we can't get rid of it, we'll pitch it," he said.

A new refrigerator, purchased with Cadle Foundation funds, is being used to store the produce, which is then given to food cupboard clients.

The produce is especially welcome because the

Illinois Food Bank has severely decreased the amount of food sent to the food cupboard. "When Carol and I first started about three and a half years ago, we got over 100 cases (of food)," Boose said. In the last few months, the food cupboard has received 12-15 cases each month, making the produce "very opportune," he said.

Anyone wishing to donate produce may take it the Grant Township office at 525 S. Market. Produce may be dropped off from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. or, for those who use their lunch hour, produce may be left by the door. "We'll take it at any time and any kind of fresh produce," Boose said.

Gardeners willing to donate a significant amount of produce may call Boose to have it picked up. He may be reached at 283-5221.

Plant a Row is a national program started in the United States in 1995. It was modeled on the Canadian "Grow A Row" program which began in 1988 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Governor signs legislation granting property tax relief

Gov. Rod Blagojevich has signed a new law increasing statewide homeowner exemptions and providing additional relief for senior citizens.

Effective immediately, the new law:

increases the statewide homeowner exemption to \$5,000, up from \$3,500. All Illinois property owners will be able to claim the increased exemption on their 2004 tax bills regardless of how much their property value increased.

assists senior citizens by increasing their additional homeowner exemption to \$3,000, up from \$2,000.

increase the income level for seniors to be eligible for an assessment freeze on their property. The cur-

rent level is \$40,000. The new law increases it to \$45,000.

The homeowner and senior citizen exemptions will automatically become effective. Property owners will not have to sign up for them. Residents who were turned down for the assessment freeze due to income and whose household income is under the maximum may file a new application, said Grant Township Assessor Susie Sheppard. Forms are expected to be available this week at the assessor's office at 525 S. Market St.

For more information, contact Sheppard at 283-6868.

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and on the Internet at **www.justthefacts.net**



Police were called at 11:12 a.m. Saturday to the 300 block of East Washington after a gas line was hit while a

Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 1:31 Saturday for a gas spill at Casey's General Store on Penn St.

Briefly

Trip to war museum

The Hoopeston Multi Agency van will travel to the Vermilion County War Museum on Tuesday, Aug. 24. The van will leave at 11 a.m. To reserve a seat, call 283-5544.

Johnson to meet farmers

U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson (IL-15) will meet with members of the Illinois agriculture sector from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursday at the Golden Mine Restaurant, 211 E. Lincoln, St. Joseph. Deputy Sec. Jim Mosely of the USDA will join Johnson to discuss federal agriculture policy.

Milford residents win at state fair

Three Milford residents fared well last week at the

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert lists tomato contest winners

Area gardeners brought their finest tomatoes Friday to Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert for the shop's annual tomato contest. Seventy-five entries were judged, including four in the small tomato category.

Winners were:

Largest by weight: Don Kronz
 Largest by measure: Larry Ridl
 Best Supersteak large: Herb Smith
 Best collection Rutgers: John Bray
 Best collection Early Girl: Betty Cowan
 Best and largest collection: John and Dot Bray
 Perfect collection of 3: Alice Bush
 Best yellow collection: Gib Stock
 Heirloom "German" red/yellow: Alice Wagoner
 Heirloom "Irish" Karol Volpert
 Heirloom "Irish" perfect and most unusual shape:

Police News

man was digging in his yard. Ameren-CIPS was also sent to the scene

Esmeralda Cordova, 24, of 307 N. Sixth Ave. was arrested at 11:46 a.m. Sunday at her home.

Cordova, wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear for sentencing, was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Ashley D. Compton, 18, of 10 N. Main St., Henning

Illinois State Fair in Springfield. Kyle Knauth received reserve champion barrow in the Berkshire swine category; Cassandra Knauth received reserve champion barrow in the Chester White category; and John D. Brassard earned reserve champion barrow in the Duroc category.

The fair ends Saturday.

Vial of Life

Residents are reminded that it is time to update their Vial of Life containers. An updated list of medications should be put in the vial, which should be stored in the refrigerator. For more information on the program, contact Charlene Ervin at Country Terrace, 283-9215.

Caroline Ridl

Organic grown: Joan Daily

Perfect Early Girl (tie): Frank Morse, Clint McCool

Small - best of 3 variety: Margarita Payne

Small - best of red/yellow: Georgia Stone

Small - best of yellow (called white) Judy Brown

Small - largest collection: Margarita Payne

Potatoes, peppers, cucumber: Morse McCool co-op

Beautiful garden display: Tom Fortier

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today and tonight. High 82, low 63. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 81, low 64.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.



was arrested at 2:39 p.m. Sunday in the 700 block of South First Ave.

She was charged with disorderly conduct after she allegedly disobeyed a police officer's orders.

Compton was released on a notice to appear.

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1 bedroom apt. Some appliances furnished. \$375/mo., includes utilities. Deposit, references, no pets. (217) 304-3477 after 5 p.m.

1 bdr., \$400/mo., 2 bdr., \$425/mo., includes garbage, water. New carpet, refrigerator, on-site laundry. Appointments- (217) 304-7341. 219-232

HOUSES FOR RENT

In Hoopeston. 3 bedrooms, fenced-in yard. \$500/mo. (217) 283-6045 or (217) 260-5163.

3 bedroom, fenced-in back yard, 2 car garage, \$425/mo.; 2 bedroom, central air, new bathroom, paint & carpet, 1 car garage, \$400/mo. Deposit, references, no pets. (217) 304-0972.

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Antique Victrola & records, \$300; men's Toski golf clubs & bag \$100; women's Rawling set \$50. (217) 283-5646.

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