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Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

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**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942**

**www.justthefacts.net**

## Memorial donation creates oasis in former hospital courtyard

A Hoopeston family and staff of Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital joined together to create a place of beauty and remembrance.

The Walter "Wally" Long Memorial Garden was dedicated Thursday in the center courtyard at the hospital.

Mr. Long, who died in 2004, often commented on the sad state of the courtyard, said his son, Steve Long of Hoopeston.

Long, who is in charge of corporate compliance at the hospital, remembered his father's comments and made a donation to make major improvements to the area.

His contribution was joined by others from Jo and John Yaden, who contributed lawn furniture and accessories for garden, Carlson's Landscape Service, and hospital employees Betsy Morgenroth, Carole Bond and Marilyn Reeves who worked with Long on the courtyard's design. Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation donated funds to purchase and install two specially-made oversized doors to provide access from the hospital to the area.

The new garden includes an array of Mr. Long's favorite plants, including bearded and Siberian iris, mini roses, hostas, peonies, day lilies and pink dogwood and river birch trees.



Members of the Wally Long family stand in the memorial garden at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital that now bears his name. Pictured are, front from left, Katie Dixon, and Nancy Long and back, Debby Dixon, Steve Long and Arlene and Joe Wise.

Several members of Mr. Long's family attended the dedication ceremony, including his widow, Nancy, children Steve Long, Debby Dixon and Arlene and Joe Wise, and great-granddaughter, Katie Dixon.

Plaques dedicating the memorial garden were unveiled and certificates were given to family members and those who contributed to creating the garden.

The Walter "Wally" Long Memorial Garden is open to all.



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Letters to the Editor

Mayor's comments draw ire

In the Thursday, Sept. 22 issue of Just the Facts, an article quoted Mayor Dewitt saying he "was never in favor of the Jaycees having a beer tent inside the park anyway, but it's water under the bride."

In a recent vote to increase the number of special even liquor licenses, he voted in favor of the increase. Is he in favor of everyone else having liquor inside the park except for the Jaycees? Are the Jaycees being singled out? Is it really "water under the bridge" like he says?

What would the people of Hoopeston think if they knew that their mayor expected 40 free passes in order to get into the park over Labor Day weekend, and after he received those 40 free passes, he called the festival chairman and told him they were inadequate? Not to mention that the city employees that work in the park had already been hand-delivered their passes, so there is no way that these passes could have been for them. Or what would they think if they knew that he went to Jon Luehrs Attractions and asked for and received free ride passes from them? Is

this unethical and/or illegal for an elected, paid city official to accept or solicit free gifts? What else does our new mayor of Hoopeston feel that he is entitled to that the rest of us taxpayers are paying for?

If there was not a Festival, Labor Day weekend would just be another typical weekend in Hoopeston with nothing to do in the evenings except go to the bars or most people going elsewhere to spend their money. The Festival brings a lot of visitors to our community as well as generating revenue for the city of Hoopeston. In speaking with the Jaycees, they have said how much they appreciate all of the local businesses that help with the festival and how fortunate they feel that these businesses are so generous with their donations. However, it must be frustrating for the Jaycees when certain city officials are giving them grief and they are just trying to raise money for the benefit of the community. The Jaycees have spent a lot of time preparing for and working during the Festival and this is all voluntary. The satisfaction of providing community services is enough for the Jaycees.

For everyone's information, the Jaycees use the money that is made during the Sweetcorn Festival and

Fall Demolition Derby for many community service projects such as the Senior Citizens Dinner, Toys for Kids, Underprivileged Kids Christmas Party, Post Prom, Easter egg hunt and other events. On Sunday nights of the Festival, there is no beer served in the beer tent. At this time, there is a teen dance held. The bars in Hoopeston would have an opportunity on this night to make more money when the Jaycees are not serving liquor.

Perhaps we need to be thankful that we have all of the volunteer organizations in this town that we do instead of finding ways to criticize them. If all of these organizations didn't exist, where would our town be?

Amy Hatfield  
Hoopeston

Thoughts on festival cleanup

I'm just wondering why the city of Hoopeston waits till the week before the Sweetcorn Festival to paint the curbs and sweep the streets plus getting the railroad tracks fixed instead of having this as ongoing for the people who live here 24/7. Don't we, the citizens, have the right to nicely painted curbs and nice railroad tracks to go over?

The city fathers should see for themselves how it is

Police News

**Roger L. Jackson**, 35, of 1111 E. Thompson, was ticketed for disobeying a traffic sign after an accident at 7:48 a.m. Tuesday.

Police said Jackson, in a 1997 Jeep, was facing west at Thompson and Seventh St. and collided with a 1994 Chevrolet driven by Jamie L. Brougher, also of Hoopeston.

No injuries were reported.

**Andrew W. Tetrault** of Hoopeston was treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital after a car/bicycle accident at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Police said Tetrault was southbound on South Market before the intersection at Maple when he was struck by a 1989 Oldsmobile driven by Timothy P. Thilmony, 38, of 726½ E. Young.

Thilmony was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and expired registration.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms, rain today and tonight. High 76, low 46. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 63, low 39.

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

difficult for people who are in wheelchairs to go over the tracks safely. They need to get out from behind their desks and drive up an down all the streets and also alleys to see what is going on in our town. Maybe if they would try to improve the city people would come.

A tax payer  
J. Akers  
Hoopeston native

**Just the Facts welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and must include the author's daytime telephone number. Letters may be mailed to Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL 60942; faxed to (217) 283-9348 or emailed to publish@justthefacts.net.**

Classifieds

CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Marguerite Huckleby wish to thank everyone who donated or participated in their mother's benefit. It was really appreciated. Thank you!

HELP WANTED

Part-time Help at Hoopeston Library for evenings & Saturdays. Requirements are High School diploma, good interpersonal skills, ability to shelve books, some lifting required, basic computer skills, and willingness to learn new duties as assigned. Applications accepted until October 11 at 110 N. Fourth St.

HOUSES WANTED

Stable local couple seeks 3-4 BR house to rent or purchase on contract in Hoopeston school district. References available. (217) 283-4118

RUMMAGE SALES

618 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston. Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 6,7, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult winter clothing, Halloween & Christmas items, misc. 401 Gilbert, Rossville. Fri. & Sat., 8-3. Fall decorations, linens, women's clothes, purses, shoes, lots misc.

SERVICES

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Hoopeston Multi Agency  
Annual Ham & Bean Dinner  
Thursday, Oct. 6 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Donation \$5 per person  
Includes ham & beans, cornbread, drink,  
cole slaw & dessert.  
Pay at the door  
Carry-outs available \$5.50

*Briefly*  
**WMD winners**  
September winners in the Women Making a Difference drawing were: \$25, Doreen Triber and Terry Paterson; \$15, Beth Smith and Roger Long; and \$10, Donna Field and Dottie Holmes.  
**Rossville Community Organization**  
RCO's regular monthly meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the former Rossville-Alvin High School