

Tuesday is Senior Citizens Day

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HOOPESTON

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**Northfork Conservation Club
announces that membership dues for
the remainder of 2006 will
\$30 and \$40, respectively.**

**The Club also wishes to announce
that the lake will be restocked will be
on the following dates: April 7th, April
28th, and May 19th, 2006.**

BENEFIT

April 8, 2006

Hoopeston VFW

Noon-?

For the children of

Andrea Guajardo

BBQ Pork Dinner \$4

DJ noon-9 p.m.

Generation II band 9 p.m.-?

Auction starts at 3 p.m.

**All proceeds to be placed in a
trust for education expenses for
Andrea's children, Jordan, 7,
Andrew, 6 and Kristopher, 1.**

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

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Plans underway to beautify, unify community with theme

Hoopeston will tap its roots for a theme to beautify and unify the city.

Downtown business owners met last month with Peace Corps Fellow Shannon Ruh to discuss ways of increasing traffic and beautify the area.

Ruh, who is spearheading economic development in the city, told those attending that communities that do not have downtowns are creating them. Downtowns, she said, are distinctive, multi-functional, pedestrian-friendly and encourage lingering.

Each of the approximate 15 business owners who attended the meeting helped define the focus by listing the strengths and weaknesses of Hoopeston's downtown.

Among the strengths were the Lorraine Theatre (chosen as the downtown's biggest strength), the fact that the downtown is easily walkable, the number of locally-owned businesses and the interest of business owners to improve the area.

Weaknesses included vacant store fronts, lack of focus, lack of a theme and negative attitudes.

The strengths and weaknesses present opportunities and threats to economic development. Opportunities listed included letting other businesses use storefronts, providing financing so empty buildings can be purchased, opening a tourist-based center and relatively low prices for buildings.

Threats to development included "no trespassing" signs on businesses; attitude, boarded-up windows and difficulty reaching non-local building owners to get them to make improvements.

The group came up with suggestions for increasing traffic to the downtown, including signs on Rtes. 1



RUH

and 9 listing available services. Ruh said she expects to call another meeting with business owners to review signs before making a final design.

After discussing options for a theme, the group settled on Hoopeston's history of corn and hope to get business owners and residents to use the theme, not only in the downtown but throughout town.

Murals on businesses also drew interest from business owners. Rod Gaddis of Rod's Home and Auto offered the side of his business, at the corner of

Market and Main, for a mural.

Ruh said she plans to check with local artists, including school art classes to move that part of the project forward.

Ruh is also looking for old photographs of Hoopeston that could be used for murals, as well as ideas for other displays that can be used in the city. Both may be dropped off at city hall, 301 W. Main.

Business owners are not the only ones thinking of beautifying the city. In a letter to business owners, Claudia DeWitt, chairman of the beautification committee, is soliciting funds for planters to be placed throughout the city.

Sponsorship of a planter costs \$100 and will include planters, a special potting soil mix, fertilizer and easy-care plants. The same theme will be used throughout the city.

Other plans include floral gardens throughout Hoopeston.

Anyone interested in donating to the effort may send a check to City of Hoopeston Beautification Project, 301 W. Main St., Hoopeston, IL 60942.

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Briefly

Tiny Tots

"Eggs and Ducks" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is for children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Work postponed

Work on the Hoopeston water tower and ground storage tank, scheduled for this week, has been postponed indefinitely.

Blood drive

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 11 at the bus parked by the community room at Hoopeston Regional Health Center. To schedule an appointment, call Diane at (217) 28305531, ext. 262. Walk-ins are also welcome.

All high school donors will receive a free Red Cross T-shirt.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for a citywide cleanup to begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 22. Several prizes will be

Food Service Openings

Hoopeston Regional Health Center is recruiting staff for the Food Services Department. Responsibilities include setting up and serving resident & patient meals, working in the dish room and other food service department duties.

Work hours are primarily 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; however the ability to work some evening hours and every other weekend is required.

If you're interested and you have a great customer service attitude, please apply in person at Hoopeston Regional Health Center, 701 E. Orange Street, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Hours to apply are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. HRHC offers a full range of benefits and a great working environment.

awarded and treats, drinks, gloves, buckets and bags will be provided.

About 40 volunteers are needed. Volunteers may sign up at Hoopeston City Hall or call 283-5320.

Baseball Signups

The last day for baseball signups is 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 8 at the Multi-Agency. This includes T-Ball, Instructional League, Minor and Major Leagues.

If you cannot attend, registration forms are available on the web at www.hoopestonareayouthbaseball.com.

Completed forms along with registration fees can be mailed to HAYB, PO Box 223, Hoopeston, IL 60942. If you have any questions, please contact Kasey Moore 217-283-6268.

Hydrant flushing

Rossville residents are asked to note that the village will begin its hydrant flushing program Thursday and every Thursday through the summer months.

West Coast Reunion

A West Coast Reunion for Hoopeston-East Lynn High School classes of 1974 and 1975 will be held July 14-16 in the San Francisco Bay area. Host and hostess are Greg Gardner, 1182 Johnson Ave., San Jose, CA 95129, cell (408)838-0051, email: gardner5@mac.com and Cathy Regan Kraemer, 20620 Brookwood Lane, Sara-

Obituaries

WILLIAMS—Dorothy H. Jorgenson Williams, 97, of Milford died at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11, 2006 at Watseka Rehab & Health Care Center. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. April 8 at Milford Christian Church. Burial will be in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Milford. Visitation will be two hours before services at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church or Milford Swimming Pool. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford was in charge of arrange-

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 56. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 34. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 61, low 34.

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

toga, CA 95070, cell (650) 224-8962, email: katherine@katherinekraemer.com.

A reunion website is available at <http://groups.mac.com/reunion06>.

New Books at the Library



Fiction

Perfect Nightmare: a Novel by John Saul
Dunkirk Crescendo by Bodie & Brock Thoene
London Refrain by Bodie & Brock Thoene (inspirational)

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