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Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

Briefly

Open house

An open house will be held from 4:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12 at the new Grant Township Garage behind Hoopeston Area High School.

Information on the building will be available and contractors will be on hand to answer questions.

Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

Play school

Hoopeston Area High School child care class will offer Play School to three-, four-, and five-year-olds beginning Oct. 3. Play school will be held from 1:40-3:05 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for the remainder of the school year.

To enroll a child, call Kay Brown, (217) 283-6661.

New bowling leagues forming

•Wednesday night Sprint League is now forming at Pla-Mor Lanes. The eight-week session will run from Sept. 27-Nov. 15 with five-person teams and 90 percent of 200 handicap. Games will be at 7 p.m. with a \$9 nightly fee.

For more information, contact Joanne Gress or Bob Hamilton.

•A Tuesday evening non-smoking mixed league is also being formed at Pla-Mor Lanes. Anyone inter-

ested in joining may call JoAnne Gress, 283-5195.

Benefit open house

A Homemade Gourmet open house will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Milford Community Depot. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Milford Christian Church Harvest of Talents for disaster emergency services.

Community Church of the Nazarene news

New Sunday School classes have been added Hoopeston Community Church of the Nazarene. Classes for pre-kindergarten/kindergarten; first and second grade; third and fourth grade; fifth and sixth grade; 10th grade-college; and adults will be held at 9:30 Sunday mornings. A nursery is open for children ages birth-three.

Also, Sunday evening classes will be held at 5 p.m. for teens; 6 p.m. for adults (with Rich Stipp); 6:30 p.m. for young parents and couples at leaders' homes with child care provided at the church. The fourth Sunday evening will be family night starting Sept. 24. All classes will meet at the church for singing and a short lesson, followed by food, fellowship and games.

For more information or to ride the bus, call 283-9771.

Obituaries

HOSKINS - Funeral services for Christina "Fern" Hoskins, 79, of Hoopeston will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Potomac. Burial will be in Potomac Cemetery. Visitation will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Mrs. Hoskins died at 1:20 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, 2006 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

SCOTT—George L. Scott, 85, of Stockland died Saturday, Sept. 9, 2006 at The Waters of Covington, Covington, Ind. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland. Visitation will be two hours before services at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Stockland Volunteer Fire Department or a charity of the donor's choice.

**Merita's Family
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and on the Internet at **www.justthefacts.net**

Beautification chairman on project...

My letter is in response to the Silver Bros. letter which was in response to Ms. Russell's letter. As General Chairman of the Beautification Committee, I have firsthand knowledge of all that happened and I eagerly wish to make the true facts known.

First, I want to establish the fact that Silver Bros. is a fine company, spanning four generations of the Silver family. They are all very fine people. It was not the intention of the Beautification Committee to hurt, slight, offend or upset anyone. But getting this job done was not about Silver Bros. It was about beautifying our city in as many areas of town as possible while utilizing the money we had to spend to the very best of our ability.

There were not several discrepancies in Ms. Russell's letter as Silver Bros. claimed, there was only one inaccuracy. The \$10,000 she spoke of was the amount allowed in the city budget to be used for civic improvement. That same amount was budgeted the previous year, before the Beautification Committee was ever formed, but was used for other projects, not civic improvement. It was Bill Goodwine that chose to use the money elsewhere.

And while I'm on this subject, the position of fulltime animal control officer was not eliminated so the money could go to beautification, a rumor that circulated for several months.

The committee did receive three grants from Keep Vermilion County Beautiful, as well sponsorship of planter. We are so grateful to KVCB and to all the businesses and individuals that contributed to this effort. Thank you, thank you!

The concrete work done in preparation for a recreation area west of the theater was not done by an out-of-town company as stated by Ed Lotz at the city council meeting. It was done by a hometown boy. He is a professional in every sense of the word and did a great service to the city in which he grew up. Who in the world could find fault with that? My sincere thanks for a job very well done! The concrete did, however, come from an out-of-town source for a very simple reason. It cost less. A no brainer. If Silver Bros. concrete cost less, as they stated in their letter, then they have dropped the price sine they presented their bid to me.

Now to the discrepancies in the Silver Bros. letter. It was

not the mayor that called for a bit. It was me. He did, however, meet with them at the site to tell them what we wanted done. They did not get back with him as they said they would. It was I that called to see if the bid was indeed ready after weeks of waiting and I went myself and picked it up. It was the original intention of the city to do as much of the work as possible. After all, this site is on city property, so why does Silver Bros. think it is so unreasonable for the city employees to work on it? They are being paid to work for the city. Duh! Silver Bros. also stated there was a difference in the size of the slab. Yes, there was a slight difference. Let's assume (I haven't broken down the figures myself) there was enough of a difference to deduct the \$1,355.06 that Silver Bros. says would lower their bid. If the figures are true and accurate, we still saved \$1,943.51. I feel a strong obligation to all the people that contributed to this effort to utilize their money as wisely as possible. I will not apologize for doing just that! The final decision in this matter was mine and I stand behind it. The accurate figures were presented to the council by Ms. Russell and

the proposal received a unanimously favorable vote. After Silver Bros went to the mayor, I called their office and asked them to contact me if they wanted to discuss this matter further. They had ample time to contact me and amend their bid if they so desired. Having not been contacted by Silver Bros. after several days it was very clear to me to proceed with the lowest bid.

It doesn't seem to bother Silver Bros. when they do work in other towns, even though their motor fuel tax is being paid to Hoopeston. Is that what you call a double standard? Silver Bros. has everything to gain with each and every improvement made to this city, after all they are in business here. I have nothing to gain through all my hard work as a volunteer except pride in a job well done, and I intend to keep working to improve our city.

Claudia M. DeWitt
General Chairman

Hoopeston Beautification Committee

And alderman's comments

My letter is in response to unsolicited remarks from Alderman Bill Goodwine at the Hoopeston City Council

meeting on Sept. 5. Alderman Goodwine is not on the Beautification Committee nor is he on the Civic Improvement committee. He just merely took it upon himself to express his own opinion in reference to Ms. Alice Russell's letter criticizing Silver Bros. unprofessional behavior relating to a recent incident that occurred in our city. He made it very clear that this was "just her opinion" and does not necessarily represent the views of the city. May I remind him that we still practice Freedom of Speech in this country and she is protected by the Constitution to voice her opinion if she so chooses. By the same token, his views are just that, not representative of the city. He is in no position to either reprimand or intimidate Ms. Russell for expressing her views. She has just as much right to her opinion as he does. Nor does he have any basis to accuse her of misinformation to the council when requesting funds for a project to be completed by the committee of which she is the Chair. He was totally out of line.

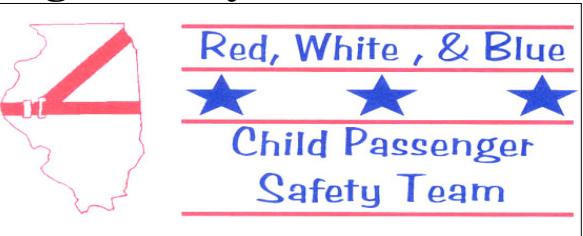
Claudia M. DeWitt
General Chairman
Hoopeston Beautification Committee

Red, White & Blue Child Passenger Safety Team seeks volunteer child safety technicians

Vermilion County residents have an opportunity to become certified child passenger safety technicians. The Red, White and Blue Child Passenger Safety Team is joining with the Illinois Department of Transportation to offer a 4-day training program September 29-30 and October 6-7 at Danville Fire Department's main station, 1111 North Griffin Street.

"We currently have 10 certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians in Vermilion County," says Red, White and Blue Coordinator Sandy Heffern. The Red, White and Blue group last held certification training in 2004.

Heffern says the 4-day training teaches participants about injury prevention, car seat effectiveness, appropriate child safety seat installation, and how to conduct a car seat check event. "We need more trained technicians to help us continue to offer monthly safety checks here in Vermilion County," Heffern says. Heffern says she is encouraging local



social service agencies, schools and others to send staff for training. "All of us who work with children know how critically important it is to ensure they are safe in vehicles," she says.

The cost for training is \$60. The cost for training

Weather



Showers likely today and tonight. High 73, low 58. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 73, low 52.

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

Classifieds

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