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**Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>**  
**Thursday, July 22, 2010**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication  
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)



Milford and Watseka firemen fight a blaze Tuesday at the Thirsty Turtle, 104 N. West Avenue, in Milford.

## Fire claims Milford watering hole, other buildings spared

MILFORD—Many Iroquois County fire departments, as well as Hoopeston's were called Tuesday afternoon to the Thirsty Turtle Tavern 104 N. West Avenue.

Business owner Amber Fjeldheim went outside to get supplies and when she returned, at about 12:53 p.m., the building was filling with smoke, said Milford Fire Chief Frank Hines. Fjeldheim called 911, reporting that she heard a pop or a boom, he said.

An Illinois State Fire Marshall's investigator was on the scene early Wednesday to determine the fire's cause.

Aerial units from Hoopeston and Watseka fought the fire from the air, with Hoopeston firemen atop the neighboring Milford Building and Loan. The fire burned through a wall of the building and loan and an interior wall had to be stripped, but there was no structural damage, Hines said.

The building to the east of the fire scene, Lueke's garage, which contained at least one antique vehicle, as well as others, had no reported damage.

See FIRE on other side

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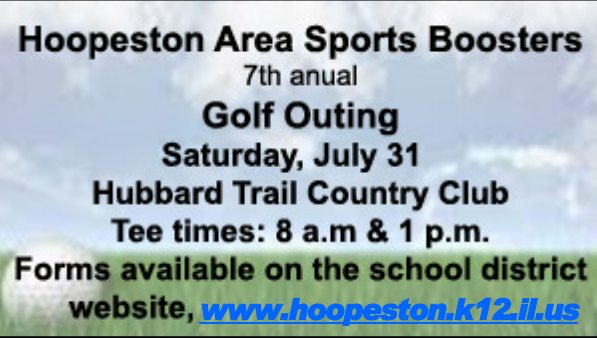
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**Golf Outing**

**Saturday, July 31**

**Hubbard Trail Country Club**

**Tee times: 8 a.m & 1 p.m.**



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**HOOPESTON ROSSVILLE**

# Alderwoman takes council to task for failure to act in demolishing dilapidated buildings

Alderman Sue Comstock had a few words for her fellow council members about the group’s failure to act on dilapidated buildings in Hoopeston.

Talking about the “tree house” at 522 E. McCracken and issues surrounding it, Comstock said “if it had been taken care of after the fire four or five years ago, it wouldn’t be an issue.”

The house, which has a tree growing in it, is up for tax sale, as are many other properties. “There are 26 houses in this town that are crap,” she said.

Comstock said the council is “responsible for what is out there for sale right now” because of failure to act on ordinances governing damaged buildings. “We’ve got the ordinances in the book,” she said. “They’ve been

## Obituaries

**ROBINSON** - Robert R. Robinson, 47, of Orlando, Fla., formerly of Wellington, died July 15, 2010 in Orlando. Memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Wellington United Methodist Church.

there for years.”

City officials plan to place a lien against the “tree house” to recoup the cost of demolishing it. Comstock, said the cost will be \$1,200 for demolition, plus additional cost for disposing of the waste. Mayor Bill Crusinberry said disposal costs will be in the \$3,000 to \$4,000 range.

Comstock said she is against putting a lien on the house because the city did not act promptly to tear it down, but other officials disagreed.

“We’re not going to give away no more stuff, period” Alderman Bill McElhaney said.

“I don’t think we’re in the real estate business,” Alderman Brandon Hamilton said, adding he has no problem tearing structures down, if the city tries to recapture the cost of oding so.

Crusinberry said the city cannot afford to tear down all the properties that should be taken down “unless we establish a fund. We can’t go around spending money we don’t have.”

City attorney Paul Manion said he will file a lien against the property and hope that a tax sale buyer will

## Fire continued from other side

Fire departments spent the afternoon battling the fire, which destroyed the building. A damage estimate was not available at press time.

Cleanup at the scene started at about 6:30 p.m. or 7 p.m., Hines said, but Milford firemen remained on the scene overnight.

In all, eight departments were called to the fire. Besides Milford, Hoopeston and Watseka, responding departments included Wellington-Greer, Cissna Park, Stockland, Woodland and Sheldon.

Additionally, Milford ambulance was on the scene and Mowrey Auction Service, of Milford, provided tanker trucks, Hines said.

## Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today. High 88. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 75. Tomorrow, sunny. High 93, low 73.

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

work with the city to get demolition costs recouped.

In unrelated business, the council heard from McElhaney that the water department is looking to install up-graded water meter reading software that will pinpoint dates and times of anomalies in the readings and that within 30 to 60 days, residents will be able to view and pay their water bills online.

## Police News



A 64-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 4:35 p.m. Tuesday that someone took a firearm from his home in the 400 block of East Penn.

A 51-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 10:47 p.m. Tuesday that someone took money from her purse while she was in the 800 block of East Honeywell.



every Thursday 7 p.m.

**Hoopeston  
American Legion**

502 E. Penn

## Classifieds

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