Friday, Aug. 16, 9 p.m. NIGHT GOLF \$35 per player Includes 9 hole golf, 2 glo balls per player, party favors on 3 holes Signup deadline 2 p.m. Friday

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All proceeds to benefit the Hoopeston Fire Department For fire gear lost during our recent fire Bring in this coupon on your first exam to receive your discount.





# Council to keep watchful eye, but not own, Vermilion Iron

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said Hoopeston will not take ownership of Vermilion Iron.

The announcement came at a special meeting Tuesday, where the first action was to go into closed session for 32 minutes to discuss the issue.

Following the executive session, Crusinberry said there would be no action taken but that "the concensus is the council will not take ownership."

At an August 6 meeting, representatives from city and county groups urged the council to take ownership of the property to have control of demolishing structures and remediation of possible contamination at the former foundry.

Crusinberry did not poll council members in open session to establish a concensus but said officials will monitor results of Vermilion County Health Department's soil sampling. He added that the Illinois Attorney General and Environmental Protection Agency representatives advised there are violations against the previous owner.

The property is expected to be included in a tax deed sale August 19 in Danville. Hoopeston will execute an order of demolition, forcing anyone who buys the property to submit a plan to the city on how the new owner will clean up the property. The order "will keep someone from taking all the steel out and make a bigger mess than we've got now," Crusinberry said.

If soil samples show contamination, the health department can apply for an EPA brownfields grant to clean it up. The site can qualify for the grant even if the city does not own the property, said Alderman Brandon Hamilton.

The council also discussed abandoned and dilapidated property in the city. Alderman Randy Carter talked about the decline of the city, including the loss of 800 residents between the 2000 and 2010 censuses and the lack of suitable housing for doctors, nurses and other professionals coming to Hoopeston.

Carter suggested at the August 6 meeting that the city impose a .005 increase in the sales tax, with half to go for residential and half to commercial properties.

The discussion prompted Alderman Bill Goodwine to comment that Illinois has one of the highest gas taxes in the country. "Do you know how we got there," he asked. "Two cents at a time."

Dustin Tarter, of the University of Illinois, who said he is working on the downtown, was disappointed that the city did not take over Vermilion Iron and that there was disagreement with the sales tax. "I'm interested in doing things in this town but it's hard for me to do them when I can see no return on my investment," he said.

In other business, Alderman Carl Ankenbrand's announcement that the swimming pool would close for the season on Wednesday brought questions from resident Darlene Medler, who uses the pool almost daily during adult swim hours. "I'm concerned the pool is closing earlier and earlier," Medler said. "I can't tell you how much the pool means to me."

Medler said pool manager Ashley Danner told her that high school aged life guards are willing to work for an adult swim from 5-6 p.m. "If it's possible to leave it open - and I think it is - I think it should be considered," she said.

Ankenbrand said if finance committee chairman Bill Goodwine would allow the extra expense of keeping the pool open, Ankenbrand would speak to Danner about someone working as a lifeguard for an adults only swim time.

In unrelated business, the council heard from Sunny Singh, manager of the new Hoopeston Marathon (formerly Convenient), who would like to add hard

See COUNCIL on other side



**T@mat@ C@ntest** 

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#### Carle Experience not good for billing dept.

The Carle Experience...really? Does the Carle Experience entail leaving six employees hanging? Does the Carle Experience cut six to nine jobs? Carle's slogan "Own it" is a joke!

I am currently an employee at CHRHC (Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center) in the billing department. When I was hired, I was under the impression that I was working for a company that cared for their employees. In the first month of my employment, we were moved from the old business office to the old nursing home and were told that we would have five years in this facility. If only we knew then what we knew now...

As many of you may know, there are plenty of rumors circulating about the possible loss of the billing department. We, at the billing department, are living and working from week to week waiting for any word on our future. Several of us have children, some in high school, some young. For others this job is the sole income for their homes! When upper management is

come see what's n ckto schoo

305 E. Main, Hoopeston

## Letters to the Editor

asked about our future, instead of "Owning it" they tell us we are "looking into it," and "we'll work together to find a solution."

On June 16, we were told that our jobs will be relocated. The CEO of CHRHC claims there is no room in the hospital for our department. They are expanding the inpatient facility, adding a sleep lab, and a fitness center.

Now tell me this, is a fitness center more of an asset than a whole department which brings in the money to pay for this facility? Set aside the fact that they are implementing a fitness center. There are SEVERAL empty

### *Council* continued from other side

liquor to the beer and wine sales already available at the store. The corporation that owns the Hoopeston store opens about 20 stores in total, Singh said. Having liquor sales at those stores has increased business in those communities.

Marathon has a license for packaged beer and wine but the city's two licenses for packaged beer, wine and liquor are held by Ted's and CVS, Crusinberry said.

In order for Marathon to have the upgraded license, the council would have to amend the number of such licenses set by ordinance. Then Crusinberry, as liquor commissioner, would determine who gets those licenses. Carter said if a change is going to be made, all three convenience stores - Marathon and the two Casey's General Stores - should be put on the same plane.

Casey's had previously requested a hard liquor license but the council was unwilling to amend the ordinance to create new ones.

Alderman Larry Baughn, civic improvement committee chairman, will hold a committee meeting to discuss Singh's request.

In other business, the council:

Passed the prevailing wage rate and salary ordinance
Heard from Alderman Brandon Hamilton, police committee chairman, asking motorists to be mindful of students who return to school next week.

## Weather

Sunny today. High 76. Tonight, clear. Low 53. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 77, low 58.

patient rooms from the old nursing home. None of these can be made into offices?

Whether Harry Brockus is aware of it or not, he is affecting several lives with this. Six to nine families without an income and least two daycares that will have to have kids pulled from. It was Harry's decision to merge with Carle because it would "bring more opportunities to Hoopeston." I may be blind of the fact, but has anyone seen this?

I believe the public needs to be aware of this situation and how it is affecting our families and community.

I also need to add that I am not the voice of the billing department; I am one person with my own opinion and expressing it publicly. Publishing this may have an effect on the decision to keep my position. But like our forefathers did fight for, I am representing "freedom of speech and publication!"

> Miranda Sanford Hoopeston

Classifieds	
	HELP WANTED
	maintenance person needed 1 day per week at Autumn pply in person between 8 a.m5 p.m. MonFri.
	LOST & FOUND
	le black lab, "Cole." Has white stripe from mid neck to earing orange collar. Last seen in Antioch Rd. area. 0-2328.
	MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
	LCD HD TV, 1080P, 120HZ, Used 7 months. \$800. ) 283-7568. Good condition!
	ial plots at Floral Hill Cemetery, close to fish pond
	RUMMAGE SALES
Thompso	STON: 517 N. Dixie Hwy. (southwest corner of on & Rt. 1) Sat., 7-1. Holiday decorations - mostly as, some Halloween & Easter.
dishes, b	STON: 519 S. 5th St. Fri. & Sat., 8-1. Housewares, askets, decorations, clothing all ages, books, misc. STON: 845 E. Washington. Fri. & Sat., 8-3.
	Call (217) 283-9348 or email
pub	<u>lish@justthefacts.net</u> to place your ad!
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