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Thursday, August 20, 2015
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
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Plan to curb wild feline population may be cat's meow

A plan to neuter and vaccinate stray cats is expected to eventually lower the number of strays in Hoopeston.

At Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Jessica Sempek, a representative of the Illinois Student Chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, proposed a plan that is "a kinder, gentler solution that everyone can feel better about."

The plan, called Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) would involve local volunteers trapping free-roaming cats before veterinary students from the U of I College of Veterinary Medicine bring a mobile unit to spay/neuter, vaccinate and tag the cats, then release them back on the streets.

Vet students are able to treat 40 to 50 cats per visit, Sempek said, adding as more cats are neutered, the population of kittens will decrease.

Sherry Klemme, Hoopeston animal control officer, said 193 cats have been picked up since January. Last year, the total was 266. Of those, only 11 were reclaimed by owners. "We have to get smarter because what we're doing isn't working," she said.

Also, she said, while Hoopeston has a leash law for cats, nobody pays attention to it.

Some of Hoopeston's street cats are feral, defined as being unsuitable to be placed in a home, Sempek said. Others are socialized cats, on the street for various reasons. The socialized cats often connect with "feeders" - people willing to feed and sometimes provide shelter for the cats. "Although they won't take responsibility for them, there is an emotional connection," she said.

Many complaints about free-roaming cats - that they spray, bite and fight - will be reduced by neutering, Sempek said.

Cost for the event will be \$15 per cat, which could be offset with a spay/neuter clinic for owned cats at a cost



Jessica Sempek proposes a solution to Hoopeston's cat problem at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

of \$30.

If not enough cat owners want their pets neutered, money from the animal control program will pay, said Alderman Brandon Hamilton. At \$15 each, five cats can be done for what the city currently pays for one, he said.

Sempek called TNR "a long term solution. There is no **See CATS on other side**

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Tune in at 5 p.m. tonight-
Hoopeston Happenings
Dave McFadden
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Benefit for Brandi
Saturday, Aug. 22
Hoopeston VFW
On May 9, Brandi Olson was in a serious motorcycle accident in Pine Village, Ind. She suffered severe injuries and remains hospitalized. All proceeds will be given to Brandi and family to help with medical expenses.
Registration from 10 a.m. to noon
Run Starts at noon
\$20 a person \$25 a couple
Join us for fun, food and music
Food and Auction Immediately following Run
Live Music at 9 p.m. featuring **Katapult**

VFW Menu

Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston

Thursdays: **Tacos by Norma**

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5 - 8 p.m.

Fridays: **NFCC Fish Fry**

11a.m. - 7 p.m.

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Cats continued from other side

good short-term solution."

The council did not vote on the issue but indicated Klemme should move ahead in scheduling an event.

In other business, officials hope to move ahead with a plan to reduce flooding.

At a water/sewer meeting Monday, representatives of C2 Engineers, of Danville, made a pitch for a feasibility study, which will include surveying elevations, analyzing data and developing a plan and a cost estimate of the plan, for not more than \$16,360, said Alderman Bill McElhane.

A 1958 flooding plan was discussed, which included creating three retention areas. One, across from Schumacher's, was built but the others - one across from ADM and one on the north side of Thompson west of the rail tracks - were not done.

The cost of doing the work now would be much higher, said Mayor Bill Crusinberry. "Land prices are six to seven times what they were then," he said.

Front Street was also discussed, which, Crusinberry said, has the highest number of main breaks, with somewhere between 20 and 30.

Of the feasibility study, "I think it's time to stop doing studies unless we're going to move forward with it," he said.

The issue is expected to be voted on at the September 1 meeting.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Approved paying \$147,433 to North Central Emer-

From the Blotter

The owner of the blue and white Schwinn bicycle claimed it Tuesday.

A black and red Mongoose bicycle was found at 9:35 a.m./ Tuesday in the alley between Elm and Chestnut off of Euclid. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 4:44 p.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of East Honeywell. An unidentified driver backed a 2013 Ford Taurus, owned by City of Hoopeston, into a pole.

A blue painted Mongoose 20" bicycle was reported stolen from the 300 block of South Market within the last couple weeks.

agency Vehicles for a 2016 Braun Express ambulance. The council first waived seeking bids because the price Arrow Ambulance, manager of Hoopeston's ambulance service, negotiates is lower than the regular price of \$180,000 to \$200,000.

The purchase price will come from accrued funds, said Alderman Carl Ankenbrand, ambulance committee chairman.

- Heard from Mike Streff, of Farnsworth Group, that work on the water tower project is winding down. A top coat will be applied and allowed to dry. Then the logo will be painted on, which is estimated to take five to six days. After two days of trying, the tower will be disinfected and refilled. At the earliest, all of that could be done by a week from Friday.

Once the aerial tank is refilled and approved for use, the three hydro-pneumatic tanks around town will be disconnected and removed.

After that, water in the ground storage tank will be lowered enough for the logo to be painted on the tank without worry of condensation. Some piping and concrete work must also be done, Streff said.

- Heard from Alderman Randy Carter that bid packets are available for demolition of the former Amvets building and Second Chance, both on North Market. Bids are due back by September 14.

- Also heard from Carter that a Series 600 stump grinder was found for \$11,000 in West Virginia. Two employees will travel there to see it before it is purchased.

- Heard from Alderman Alex Houmes that bids are being accepted for design of the city's web page and are due by September 10.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 6:18 a.m. Tuesday to Hoopeston Plaza parking lot, 1030 W. Chestnut, for a report of a truck on fire. Firemen determine the truck was just overheated.

Weather

Sunny today. High 77. Tonight, clear. Low 53. Tomorrow, sunny. High 81, low 58.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

723 W. Orange St. Clean, quiet 2BR. Available now. \$400 plus utilities and deposit. References required. Mike 312-371-8585

HELP WANTED

Elevator Worker

Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), a world leader in agricultural processing, is currently seeking candidates for **seasonal positions** as elevator workers at our Hoopeston location. Elevator workers will unload grain, perform clean-up work, perform some maintenance, and assist in other areas of grain handling. Ability to meet physical requirements of the position include, but are not limited to: prolonged periods of standing and sitting, working in confined spaces and from heights, bending, kneeling, climbing stairs and ladders, working in a variety of conditions (heat, cold, dust, etc.), move up to 50 pounds, as well as the ability to wear a respirator. Flexibility to work overtime and weekends is required. Successful completion of ADM's pre-employment process is required, which may include a drug/alcohol screen, medical history, background check and other job related functional evaluations. Please apply online at www.adm.com/careers. ADM is an EOE for minorities, females, protected veterans and individuals with a disability.

Hoopeston Multi Agency has an opening for a part-time Assistant for the After School Program. Must have a minimum of two years experience working with school age children. An Associates Degree is preferred. Please email resume and cover letter to mariasermer@gmail.com by August 21.

Hubbard Trail Country Club, part time bartender/food waitress, must be experienced. Dishwasher Friday nights 5:30pm-10pm. Apply in person.

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HOUSES FOR SALE

By owner: 626 Sycamore Dr. (Southgate) Hoopeston. 3 BR, 1 bath, family room, living room, fenced in back yard, 2 car garage. (217) 283-9639 or (217) 497-8714.

RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: 934 Birch Lane (Southgate). Fri. & Sat., 8-noon. Collectibles, dishes, Goofus Glass, Avon, pottery, tins, glasses, plates, electric stove, gun cabinet, frames & much more!

HOOPESTON: 625 W. Maple (on alley) . Fri., 12-5, Sat. 8-1. Electronics, some furniture, holiday décor, household, books, lots of misc., including frames, baskets, old tools & more. Rain or shine!