

VFW Menu
 Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston
Wednesday Wings by Sylvia
 are back - 5p-8p
Tacos by Norma
 Thursdays 11a - 2p & 5p - 8p
 *No call-in orders from 5p - 8p

Email: publish@justthefacts.net Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348
Just the Facts[©] Lourdine Florek, owner
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Mayor decides on vote to buy, demolish tax sale houses

In a vote that went to the mayor for a decision, the Hoopeston City Council approved purchasing three abandoned houses at a tax sale and the money to get rid of them.

Each of the properties have a minimum bid of \$600 at a September 21 tax sale. Houses are located at 413 E. Thompson, 514 E. Thompson and 631 E. Thompson.

In bringing up the issue, Alderman Randy Carter said the three properties present health and safety issues. "We need to consider immediate action," he said.

Carter's first motion was to spend not more than \$2,000 to acquire the properties and a second motion to spend \$10,000 to dispose of the demolished buildings. City workers will tear the houses down, he said.

Alderman Alex Houmes seconded the first motion, opening up discussion to council members. Alderman Bill Goodwine raised several points, including the need for the city to stick to its budget and the need to prioritize spending.

He said the city has spent \$851,000 on projects this year, including \$300,000 for government-subsidized housing; \$64,000 to paint the inside of the water filter plant; \$50,000 for a brush truck for the fire department; \$40,000 to upgrade fire department radios; \$50,000 for a

street/alley truck with snow plow; \$32,000 for a boom truck and stump grinder; \$15,000 for a truck for the parks department; \$300,000 for the Route 1 water project.

In additional, about \$2.3 million was spent on refurbishing the water storage system. Then there will be the cost of tearing down the commercial buildings on Market. "It's just on and on and on," he said.

Goodwine asked Carter whether the civic improvement committee met and endorsed purchasing the houses and when the council will start making choices about spending.

Carter responded that he is the chair of Hoopeston Community Alliance's housing subcommittee, but Goodwine countered that the HCA and council are different entities.

Carter then asked how much is enough money for the city to have in reserve.

Goodwine answered that between the utility and land-fill funds, Hoopeston has about \$1.3 million. That amount, he said, is enough to take care of city expenses for 177 days.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry interjected that for less than
 See HOUSES on other side

Tune in at 5 p.m. tonight-
Hoopeston Happenings
Women Making
A Difference
 on WHPO!

spotlight
 on **savings**
 While Supplies Last!
5⁹⁷
 22-Tine Steel
Leaf Rake
 756245 September

Here's what's showing at the
Little Lorraine
CINDERELLA
 Fri. 7 p.m. Sat. 4:30 Princess Party
 Sat. - 7 p.m.
 Sun. - 2 & 4:30
 Suggested donation \$2-16 & under, \$5-adults.
Don't forget the Dippin Dots!
 Proceeds to Save the Lorraine Theatre Foundation

The Pump
 Bar & Package Liquor Store
 1023 W. Main, Hoopeston
 Tues: Big Hot Ham & Cheese
 Wed.: Footlong Chili Cheese Dog & Curly Fries
 Thurs.: Beef Manhattan, Mashed Potatoes, Peas
 Fri.: Ribeye Sandwiches & Broccoli/Cauli Salad
SAT., 9/26 Southern Transfer Band
FRI., 10/2, Big Guns • SAT., 10/10, Katapult Band
 Come in and try your luck with our LIVE VIDEO GAMING!

Fourth Annual
WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Craft Fair
Saturday, Sept. 19 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
McFerren Park Civic Center
 More than 40 Vendors!!
 Food and Drinks sold throughout the day
 \$1 admission goes toward raffle prizes.
 For more information find us on Facebook at
Hoopeston Women Making A Difference

Olympic Hardware
 516 N. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston
 (217) 283-5186 Open Sundays **Do it Best**

From the Blotter

A **hit-and-run** accident that occurred at 7:36 p.m. Tuesday was solved Wednesday evening.

The accident occurred in the 200 block of West Chestnut when an unknown vehicle hit a parked 1999 Ford owned by Cayla Clayburn. The driver fled the scene.

On Wednesday, an off duty officer located the vehicle, which was driven by James Colleen.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 9:21 a.m. Saturday at the high school soccer complex, 615



Halloween costumes & accessories

Plus children's shoes•Adult & children's clothing•Tools•Hardware•Hunting/fishing•Sports equipment•Jewelry•Baby items•Bicycles and other riding toys•Home decor•Toys•Purses•Candles, Food Network & Rachel Ray dishes•Swimming & pool accessories•Pet supplies•Bedding•Shower curtains/rods•Blinds

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Hoopeston VFW
Rt. 9, Hoopeston

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Free tasting!

Apple Strudel, Cherry Strudel,
Peach Mango, Tilton Tea, Brass & more

Live music with
Anger Management 5-7 p.m.
Triple Play 7-9 p.m.
Big Guns 9-11 p.m.

Donations at the Door

E. Orange.

Police said Charles E. Burgener, of Monticello, backed a 2013 GMC Carryall into a 1994 Pontiac, driven by Charles A. Wainwright, of Wellington.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 7:58 a.m. Tuesday at the Hoopeston Water Depart-

Houses continued from other side

\$5,000, the city could remove blighted property. "To me, that's what government is all about - taking care of the residents," he said.

Alderman Bill McElhaney said when the budget is created, aldermen "don't have a clear scope on what's going to happen and what people are going to ask of us," adding funds to buy and raze the structures is "a small sum of money."

Goodwine responded that small sums add up to big dollars. "We don't have the money for all these wants," he said.

Alderman Chad Yaden said he was "bright-eyed and bush tailed" when he was elected, and came up with a list of things he would like to see done. Yaden said when he presented the list to Carter, Carter told him that since the sales tax failed to pass and the council did not fund HCA, that the city was going to take a break from projects.

Yaden added that residents voted against purchasing property by their "no" votes on the one percent sales tax. "Both times, the city of Hoopeston told you they didn't want you to do it."

Regarding a comment made by Carter on social media that the city could not afford to paint curbs yellow before this year's National Sweetcorn Festival, Crusinberry said that if you asked people in neighborhoods with dilapidated properties which they're prefer - "yellow curbs or tearing down buildings - they'd choose tearing down houses."

Carter explained that the painting could not be done because the city had to pay more for road salt, which was important for safety. The street and alley department lives within its budget, he said.

Residents commented on the question, with Susie Sheppard saying allowing the expenditures would be "opening a door" and wondering if the city had funds to

ment equipment building, 425 W. Main.

Police said Anthony G. Miller, of Hoopeston, in a 2003 Chevrolet truck, pulled into the building when his brakes failed and he struck a 1993 Chevrolet dump truck owned by the city.

Beth Johnson, 36, of Hoopeston, was arrested at

continue demolishing property.

Susan Comstock, a former alderwoman, said the three properties "have been this way for years and years," and that the owners did not take care of the property.

Bertha Parsons said she did not know what the answer is to the problem but "it scares me as a community person, that we are going to start this."

Goodwine, along with Yaden, Brandon Hamilton and Lourdine Florek, voted against purchasing the property. Carter, Houmes, McElhaney and Carl Ankenbrand approved. The tie sent the decided vote to Crusinberry, who voted in favor.

Prior to the second motion, to spend \$10,000 for land-fill fees for the demolished houses, Goodwine suggested the council "needs to better appreciate the need for reserves. One hundred seventy seven days is not too much."

The vote on the motion was the same as the previous vote, with Crusinberry again breaking the tie.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Hamilton that the police department received a \$3,233.84 Department of Justice grant for eight bulletproof vests for officers.

- Hamilton also requested a finance committee meeting to discuss the possible purchase of new CAD software and training for about \$36,000.

- Heard from Yaden that the Dixie sign is done and will be put up soon.

- Unanimously approved an ordinance rezoning property for the new Prairie Meadows from heavy industrial

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 85. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 65. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 84, low 66.

8:02 p.m. Tuesday at Downtown Motel, 200 E. Main. She was charged with breach of peace constituting disorderly conduct on a complaint form a 32-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged Johnson cursed at her.

Johnson was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

to residential. The council had already approved the change but it needed to be in the form of an ordinance, Florek said.

- Heard from Carter that two formal bids were received to tear down the former Second Chance and AMVETS buildings on Market. One was for \$79,865 from a Springfield company and the other, \$23,487 from Razmus Demolition of Chrisman.

- Set a special meeting for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Grain Sampler/Technician for local company. Full time position with benefits. Clean driving record a must. Contact 217-283-7473 for details and application.

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom duplex, ground level, with a/c. \$400 per month Call 217-283-7439

Hoopeston: 2 BR, 1 bath, very nice. Appliances optional. Leave name & address for application—(217) 772-1075.

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2 BR, dining room, 1 car garage. \$400/mo., \$400 deposit. (217) 283-6021. Please leave message.

Hoopeston: South 4th St, Clean two bedroom home, nice basement, two car garage. Refrigerator, range, washer, dryer, central AC. \$500/mo. with deposit. NO pets. Smoke free, Call 283-7568 or 217-304-0935 for application.

RUMMAGE SALES

HOPESTON: St. Anthony Parking Lot Sale. Sat., 7-noon. Gently used furniture, bedding, kitchenware, toys, books, tools and more! All donations serve needy families in the Hoopeston area.

Email publish@justthefacts.net or call
(217) 283-9348 to place your ad!