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Just the Facts

Tuesday, September 13, 2016
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Mayor urges caution in buying former FMC properties

Potential buyers of Hoopeston property in the upcoming tax sale might want to think twice about purchasing some properties.

Included in the catalog of Vermilion County properties that will be sold at auction on September 20 are former FMC parcels.

At the September 6 Hoopeston City Council meeting, Mayor Bill Crusinberry said he learned some of those properties are still under investigation from the 2013 tire fire located at the former J&R Tire Recycling, which was located in the former FMC main building at 103 E. Maple.

Crusinberry learned of the open investigation when he planned to seek bids to clean the retention pond behind Casey's on Rt. 9. He emailed an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency contact, who told him no disposition on the properties has been reached. Almost all of the FMC properties are listed on the tax sale, he said.

While a potential buyer could grab up any parcel for a minimum bid of \$600 plus filing fees, a new owner would be unable to get loans to develop the properties since it has not been remediated by the EPA. "It's a 'buyer beware' situation," he said.

In unrelated business, the council heard from Beth Johnes, owner of Quality Assured Industrial Coating of Alton, about payment for painting the city's water towers.

QAIC was subcontracted by Leander Construction, who was withholding payment based on a Department of Labor investigation into QAIC not paying correct wages. That was resolved, Johnes said, alleging that Leander continues to withhold payment as a favor to a union for a job unrelated to Hoopeston.

Alderman Brandon Hamilton listed problems caused by QAIC, which included cables to equip-

ment based on the water tower being cut by wet blasting the tower, prompting Johnes to respond "if I knew what that tank looked like, I wouldn't have taken the job."

No action was taken on Johnes' request as Crusinberry said the issue is between QAIC and Leander.

In other business the planned switch away from Hoopeston being a 911 answering point was scheduled to take place September 12.



Photo by Lori Page

Up close

Marjorie McCallister is photographed up close and personal at McFerren Park in this, the second winner in the Just the Facts Summer Snaps photo contest. Photographer Lori Page, of Bismarck, wins \$25 and is in the running for the \$100 grand prize.

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From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:40 p.m. September 4 at West Young and North Tenth Ave.

Police said Billy J. Robinson, of Hoopeston, in a 2003 Honda Element, was northbound and failed to yield at the intersection, striking a westbound 2006 Ford Expedition driven by Gloria G. Colunga, also of Hoopeston.

Kyle Ponton, 26, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 2:47 a.m. September 5 at Sixth St. and

McCracken. He was charged with driving while license revoked, no valid registration and operating an uninsured vehicle and was released with a date in Vermilion County traffic court.

Several items were found at McFerren Park during the Sweetcorn Festival, including two wallets, two sets of keys, two drivers licenses, a pair of glasses and a cell phone. All items can be identified and claimed at the police station.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:32 p.m. September 5 at the intersection of Main and First Ave. Police said Melissa Goble, of Hoopeston, in a 2010 Toyota Rav 4, stopped at the intersection, then entered it, not seeing a westbound 1998 Buick driven by Tiffany Dale, also of Hoopeston, which Goble struck.

James Russell, 29, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 10:43 p.m. September 6 for a suspicious vehicle in the area of Seventh St. and

McCracken. He was charged with driving while license suspended and was released on bond with a date in Vermilion County traffic court.

Terria E. Blanton, 43, of Ambia, Ind., was ticketed after two dogs were found in distress in her vehicle at 11:20 a.m. Thursday at Hoopeston IGA parking lot. She was charged with cruelty to animals and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Stevie E. Acosta, 18, of Arkansas, was arrested at 5:23 p.m. Thursday in the 200 block of West Elm. She was charged with criminal damage over \$500 after al-

Briefly

Gospel music a the Multi Agency

Maple Madness 2016, Maple School's only fundraiser of the year, kicks off September 7. Students will sell raffle tickets for \$10 each. Every day in October, a winner will be selected who will win cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$500. For more information, call the school, (217) 283-6665.

Volunteer opportunity

Hoopeston Multi Agency has several opportunities for volunteers in the thrift shop, afterschool program and front desk. For more information, stop by the Multi Agency at 206 S. First Ave., or call (217) 283-5544.

Cub Scout signups

Boys in grades 1-4 can sign up to join Cub Scouts Pack 118. Signups will be held from 6-7 p.m. Fridays Sept. 16 and 23 at Hoopeston Methodist Church fellowship hall. For more information, call Christie and Jim Pancake, (217) 260-6238.

Breast cancer support group

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support Group will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes. The group is open to all past and present breast cancer survivors. For more information, call Pat Foster (815) 984-4040.

Weather

Sunny today. High 83. Tonight, chance of showers. Low 63. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 76, low 56.

legedly damaging a vehicle at that location. She was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

A 28-year-old Rossville woman reported at 11:30 a.m. Sunday that someone keyed her vehicle during the evening while it was parked in the 400 block of South Fifth St. Police are investigating.

Obituaries

GATRELL - Bille F. Gatrell, 76, of West Jefferson, Ohio, died Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2016, at home after a courageous battle with cancer. A son of Raymond and Harriet Gatrell, of Hoopeston, he is survived by his wife of 36 years, Carol, Gatrell, four daughters; two step daughters, one stepson; 13 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; brother Robert (Virginia) of Bloomington; and sister Bette (Kenny) Schmid of Milford.

Bille graduated from Hoopeston High School, class of 1957. He retired from Honda of America, East Liberty, Ohio. He was a member os Trinity United Methodist Church, Lilly Chapel, Ohio, where he served as trustee and choir member. He enjoyed restoring things most people would have discarded. Friends and acquaintances sough his advice and expertise on carpentry and restoration.

Celebration his life was held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 at Trinity United Methodist Church, London, Ohio. Burial was in Sunset Cemetery, Galloway, Ohio.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Hoopeston: 2 BR, 1 bath apt. Handicapped accessible. Basement. Close to shopping. Available Sept. 15. yearly lease. \$475 + \$475 deposit. References checked. Non-smoking. (217) 260-8762.

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has an opening for a Personal Aide at Maple Elementary starting immediately. Applications are available online only at Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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Photo contributed

Mums the word

Volunteers met recently to put mums in box planters in downtown Hoopeston. Pictured are, from left, Marta Pierce, Brenda and Bill Crusinberry, Loni Gress, Linda Zeigler, Valarie Hinkle and Jeanette Andre. Downtown businesses donated to purchase the mums.