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What do you think?

By BERTHA PARSONS

About our new businesses, shopping out of town, old buildings falling down? our Mayor and City Council, people who don't say "Thank You"? Just a few things to think about.

How exciting for our little town to have new businesses opening and more coming. Let's check them out, see what they have done to the building and what they have to offer. We need to shop locally.

Just the other day a friend complained she had to go out of town to find an item she needed, "There is just nothing in town." Hoopeston has never had everything you need. There is no town that ever will.

People in all towns go out of town to buy stuff. Let's seriously see if we can keep the businesses here to remain open, plus our tax dollars benefit Hoopeston. Just think about it.

We have old buildings falling down. What is the best way to handle them? Let the city take care of it? Have the owner pay to have it removed? Just forget it. There really is not a best answer. If it is a danger to others, for sure something needs to be done. So think about who that someone should be.

I think our mayor and other mayors do the best they know how, taking into consideration all our needs. Same with our city council members. Do they always do what we want? No. Do they search and seek answers? Yes. Are they interested in what is best for our town and it's people? You bet. Decisions may not always go my way. I may get upset, but my dear husband has taught me a wonderful sentence, "Don't complain unless you have a solution." Right on!

How often do you say, "Thank You?" Two words that can make or break a sale, a relationship, a job, a friendship. Why is it so hard to utter those words? Thinking we are above Thank You. I deserve the raise or the pie my neighbor brought me. No thanks necessary. Wrong! When you have reason and opportunity to say "Thank You," please do. Not only does it brighten someone's day it just may do the same for you.

Lots to think about. My sincere hope is that you do just that.

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Grant voters to have new polling place in future elections

Voters in Grant precincts recently learned a secret, if they paid attention to their new voter registration cards.

Local voters received new registration cards more than a week ago, all showing a new voting location as St. Anthony parish hall.

In 2015, Vermilion County Clerk Cathy Jenkins consolidated voting for all Grant precincts in a single location, the McFerren Park Civic Center. She met with election judges in November 2015 to answer questions and allay concerns about going from six locations to a single polling place.

However, complaints arose about the civic center, centering mostly on handicapped-accessibility, including parking, narrow hallways leading to restrooms and uneven surfaces causing problems for walking and for those in wheelchairs and scooters, she said.

"When we first moved to McFerren Park, we were looking at updates to be done to bring the building into compliance with the state regulations," Jenkins said. "Since that time, the necessary improvements haven't been made and we needed to look for a place that passed all of the state regulations for polling places to avoid potential fines."

City officials were aware that Jenkins' office received

complaints about the issues. In order keep the civic center as a polling place, the city would have to pay to have the civic center updated, she said

The parish hall had previously been a polling place, and because it met all the state requirements, the decision was made to move all of Grant voting there.

"St. Anthony's were glad to be an active polling place again and it is much nicer inside for the judges who spend a very long day at the polling place, while being able to accommodate all of the Hoopeston precincts," Jenkins said.

One issue that may continue at St. Anthony's is parking, as Maple School employees use the parish hall parking lot during the school day. "We will be working with St. Anthony in dealing with this concern," she said, adding that early voting and voting by mail are options for those who would rather not worry about delays or heavy turnout on election days.

"With this last series of moves, we should be able to leave everyone where they are...that is, of course, until the state makes changes to the laws that we will be required to comply, Jenkins said.

"I really hope this will be a positive move for the voters as well as the judges," she added.

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Briefly

At the library

Events this week at Hoopeston Public Library are:

- Teen Fun, 3-4 p.m. Wednesday.
- Transforming Our World - Inventors and Inventions, part of the Summer Reading Club, 2-3 p.m. Thursday for kids in grades K-5.
- Transforming Our World - Inventors and Inventions, part of the Summer Reading Club, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday for preschool youngsters.
- Tree Climbers genealogy group, 10 a.m. Saturday. For beginners or anyone who wants to take their search to the next level.

Princess Tea Party

Fair maidens throughout the land are invited to attend a Princess Tea Party, hosted by Miah and Clara Leslie.

The event will be held from 4:15-7:15 Saturday, July 22 at First Baptist Church, 323 E. Seminary, Hoopeston.

Tickets are \$5 per child. Admission for adults is free with paying child. Proceeds will be donated to Toys for Tots.

For more information or tickets, contact Emily Leslie at

clara091212@gmail.com or message her on Facebook. Tickets are also available at Global Fashions and Mr. B's Café.

Hoopeston Hornets signups set

Signups for Hoopeston Hornets football will Saturdays, July 15, 22, and 29 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sundays, July 16, 23 and 30 from noon-2 p.m. at Hornets Field on South Sixth Ave.

Children who are 5 but not older than 15, by September 1, are eligible. Fee is \$70 per child, with a \$5 discount per additional child per family.

City moves forward on prices/proposals for former Baer land

Hoopeston City Council could have information ready in early August to accept bids for one piece of property it hopes to sell.

At the July 5 meeting, aldermen heard from Mayor Bill Crusinberry that the first of three parcels for which bids will be sought is approximately 4.4 acres of the former Baer's Trailer Court property at Rtes. 1 and 9. Bid notices will be published and bids accepted with a price and proposed use for the property.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Mike Bane, compliance officer, who reviewed several brick structures in town with retired brick mason Tom Fortier. Bane gave an update on the conditions of the buildings.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 91. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 72. Tomorrow, chance of storms, then partly cloudy. High 87, low 67.

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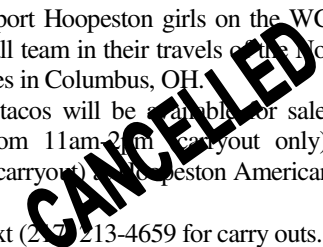
Softball taco fundraiser

Help support Hoopeston girls on the WCI Fusion fast pitch softball team in their travels on the North American World Series in Columbus, OH.

Norma's tacos will be available for sale Wednesday, July 12 from 11am-2pm (carryout only) and 4-8pm (dine-in or carryout) at the Hoopeston American Legion, 502 E. Penn.

Call or text (217) 213-4659 for carry outs.

Proceeds benefit the players directly for tournament and travel expenses.



• Heard Ald. Brandon Hamilton had received reports of golf carts being driven after dark without lights. Those doing so can be ticketed and lose the privilege of driving a cart, he said.

• Approved new auxiliary police officers Nicholas Howell of Rossville and Noah Howell of Hoopeston, who both came through the Explorer program, Hamilton said.

• Heard from Ald. Lourdine Florek that the city's aerial and ground water storage tanks will undergo a three-year, warranty-related inspection. The tanks will be drained, inspected, any problems fixed, then refilled and the water tested.

• The inspections may cause more rust in the water system and may slightly lower water pressure, she said.

• Rescinded action taken at the June 20 meeting, awarding a motor fuel tax project to Cross Construction of Urbana. The council then approved a bid from Open Road Construction, also of Urbana, who submitted a lower bid.

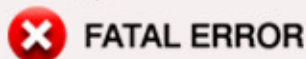
Initial approval was given because the city has previously worked with Cross but IDOT overrode that reason.

If you're counting on social media for your business advertising, consider:

People 55 and older control 70% of disposable income in America, yet fewer than half report using social media.

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