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Structure burns to provide fire training, improve appearance

Hoopeston has a new tool in ridding itself of dilapidated buildings.

At a meeting Wednesday evening, the council voted 5-0 to approve a new ordinance that allows Hoopeston Fire Department to conduct structure burns "for training and hopefully removing some of the eyesores around town," said Ald. Carl Ankenbrand, fire committee chairman.

Residents who want to take advantage of the ordinance have several things to do before a structure can be

burned. Owner duties include providing the department with proof of a clear title to the structure, have utilities shut off 14 days before the burn, allow the structure to be inspected by the fire department and show proof of having the building checked by a licensed asbestos inspector, to be submitted with forms requesting the burn.

Owners must show proof of cancellation of insurance
 See BURN on other side

Hospitals implement visitor restrictions during flu season

Increasing flu cases have area hospitals implementing temporary visitor guidelines. Hospitals taking the precautions include Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center, Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana and OSF Sacred Heart, Danville.

The Carle facilities are limiting visitors to two per patient at one time.

All ask visitors to follow Department of Public Health recommendations to help protect patients and visitors from exposure to the flu:

- Those under age 18 should not visit the hospital.
- Two visitors at a time should be in a patient room.
- Visitors with respiratory illness should not visit the hospital, or wear a mask if they must visit.
- If a patient is in isolation because of flu, limit the visitors who are vital to the patient's emotional well-being and care.
- Visitors should cough or sneeze into a tissue and throw away that tissue immediately.
- Visitors should wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer after blowing the nose or coughing or sneezing.

At Carle Foundation Hospital, additional guidelines exist in women's and children's areas.



Have you seen me?

Sally, a four-month old calico kitten, is missing from her rural Hoopeston home. She may have jumped into the engine compartment of the family truck and come to Hoopeston, possibly jumping out at Honeywell School. If seen, call Duane Shepard, (217) 497-7495.

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Burn continued from other side

on the structure 30 days before the proposed burn and provide written notice to adjacent property owners of the proposed burn seven days prior.

The structure must be eight feet from the property line and empty of all household belongings and trash. After the burn, the owner has two weeks to remove the debris.

Structure burns will be used as training for the department and while it may be used to get rid of dilapidated structures, officials will not seek out buildings to burn. "They need to come to us," said Fire Chief Joel Bird.

Much of the ordinance came from EPA guidelines that the fire department currently follows, which also includes making sure structures are not part of a historical preservation or other program.

The department will still have to apply for an EPA permit to burn each structure, Bird added.

Voting in favor of the ordinance were Ankenbrand, Bill McElhaney, Alex Houmes and Lourdine Florek. With a lack of a quorum with the absence of aldermen Brandon Hamilton, Bill Goodwine, Chad Yaden and Ryan Anderson, Mayor Bill Crusinberry also voted in favor.

In other business, Ald. Lourdine Florek announced that Hoopeston qualified for principal forgiveness on its

loan for the north side sewer lining project.

A \$644,983 EPA loan was approved for the work. Officials were notified last week that the city qualifies for 45 percent principal forgiveness, Florek said. Hoopeston also qualifies for a "hardship" interest rate of one percent, rather than the expected 1.84 percent, she said.

This is not the first time Hoopeston has qualified for principal forgiveness on a project. The EPA granted 30 percent principal forgiveness on its water storage refurbishment work.

In public comment, resident Stan Steiner asked for an update on activity on downtown building demolition.

Crusinberry said a council member will meet with an engineer to develop specifications for repairs on buildings adjacent to building owned by Ray Williams.

As for the former Lester Drugs building at 220 E. Main, Crusinberry said the owner, Jeff Coss, said he wanted to let the attorneys handle it "so that's what we'll do."

In unrelated discussion, Crusinberry read a letter from C2 Engineers of Danville will become part of Donohue & Associates, Inc., of Champaign. C2 has done much work in the city, including a study and plan for the sewer lining project.

No charges to be filed in death of Hoopeston man: Lacy

DANVILLE—No charges will be filed against correctional officers in the death of Jamie Moore, of Hoopeston.

Jacquelyn Lacy, Vermilion County State's Attorney, issued a press release last week after completing an investigation into the August 1, 2018 incident involving use of force at the Public Safety Building in Danville.

On that date, Mr. Moore, 43, was an inmate detained in K-block in the PSB. At approximately 3:15 p.m., K-block began flooding, believed to be caused by inmates, according to her release. Correctional officers Brandon Fox and Krystian Ingram were attempting to remove several inmates from their cells so maintenance personnel could address the flooding.

Lacy stated that when Ingram advised Mr. Moore to leave his cell due to the flooding, Mr. Moore became aggressive. Fox entered the cell to assist Ingram and received a punch to the left eye from Mr. Moore. The officers tried to restrain Mr. Moore, who was actively fighting them. The officers used physical actions to get Mr. Moore to comply. Eventually, with the help of other officers, Ingram and Fox were able to get Mr. Moore's hands behind his back and in handcuffs.

The altercation captured on PSB video all occurred outside of Mr. Moore's cell. He was then taken to the basement and put in a single cell and there was no further altercations.

Corrections officers checked Mr. Moore every 30 minutes per PSB policy. He did not get up to get his dinner tray. Later, officers indicated he appeared to be

sleeping. At about 9 p.m., corrections Officer Tyke Proctor delivered Moore's personal items from K-block and discovered he was not breathing. Sgt. Martin Walworth immediately attempted first aide, an ambulance was called and command was notified.

An autopsy was performed on August 2 which showed Mr. Moore had severe coronary disease and an enlarged heart. The cause of death was attributed to coronary artery atherosclerosis.

Dr. Amanda J. Youmans, D.O., of the McLean County coroner's office, determined Mr. Moore's death was not connected to the altercation with Ingram and Fox.

Lacy said in the release that under state law, Ingram and Fox were justified in the use of force based on a reasonable belief that it was necessary to prevent great bodily harm to themselves or other officers.

Based on information in the investigation, Lacy said she considered the matter to be closed and that no charges would be filed.

From the Blotter

Jacqueline T. Ashby, 47, of the 800 block of East Seminary, was cited for violation of dog owner's duties at 9:28 a.m. Wednesday for allegedly failing to get medical care and mandatory veterinarian care for a dog.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Openings available for construction workers. Concrete experience would be helpful. Apply in person at Silver Brothers Construction Co., 105 E. Washington St., Hoopeston.

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Obituaries

ABERNATHY - Jean Ann (Kner) Abernathy, 94, of rural Fithian, died at 6:10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018 at Colonial Manor Nursing Home, Danville. Visitation will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Blurton Funeral Home, Potomac. She will be cremated and private family burial held at a later date. Memorials are suggested to Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

Weather

Sunny today. High 47. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 29. Tomorrow, sunny. High 47, low 32. Sunday, mostly sunny. High 48, low 42.

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