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Just the Facts

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Man makes last bid to stop runoff before seeking other ways

After talking to elected officials for roughly seven years, Paul Kelnhofer spoke at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting as a last resort.

Kelnhofer spoke about runoff from Silver Brothers., consisting of rain mixed with concrete aggregates, such as sand and rock, and also a slurry from the business' concrete pit.

Kelnhofer, who owns a building at 102 E. Lincoln, said the area from Penn to Lincoln floods because storm water doesn't drain. He added that Steve Baker, Hoopeston Water Superintendent, told him drains and sewers are clogged with a substance that cannot be removed by city equipment. Baker did not name the substance, "so take that for whatever you think," Kelnhofer said.

Information packets provided to aldermen by Kelnhofer included pictures of colored water flooding around his building. He also has pictures of silt left in the building after water receded - a white, chalky substance on everything the water touched, including the lawn of



Paul Kelnhofer addresses Hoopeston City Council Tuesday evening.

the house next door to his building, where his daughter and grandchild used to live. "The next time that happens, I'm going to talk to my insurance company and they can figure out who will pay to clean it," he said.

On Monday, Kelnhofer spoke with Ald. Lourdine Florek, water/sewer committee chairman, about the problem and asked her to call an Illinois EPA engineer with the Bureau of Water/Division of Water Pollution Control.

Florek said the engineer told her Silver Brothers has an industrial storm water permit but said water coming from their plant into the city system should be clear and should not have any solid material in it.

To their credit, Kelnhofer said, Silver Brothers has recently made improvements. "In the last two weeks, they've cleaned up more

than they have in the last two years," he said. Asked by Ald. Bill Goodwine whether he had talked to Silver Brothers directly, Kelnhofer said he had.

"I'm letting you know I'm not standing still for it anymore," Kelnhofer told the council. "The city should have done something about it 10 years ago, when I said something. I will be back."

In other discussion, the city's plan to put a roll off container on South Sixth Ave. for residents to dispose of bulk items has "some plusses and a lot of minuses," Goodwine said.

Goodwine reported that Republic Services representatives said, "compared to other communities, See RUNOFF on other side

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A

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BINGO

7 p.m. every Thursday
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From the Blotter

Police are investigating a burglary reported at 12:22 p.m. Tuesday. An 81-year-old Hoopeston woman reported someone took an air compressor from her garage in the 900 block of West Washington.

Obituaries

JENTSCH - Waneta (Wilson) Schneider Bertrand Smith Jentsch, 100, formerly of Bismarck, died February 27, 2019. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Gundy Cemetery, Bismarck. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements.

JEROME - Joshua Wayne Jerome, 37, of Hoopeston, died at 3:23 p.m. Saturday, June 15, 2019. He was cremated; no service will be held at this time. Memorials are suggested to his daughter's education.

Runoff continued from other side

Hoopeston has a lot of bulk garbage." The 20 cu. ft. container is filled daily.

A new contract with Republic Services, which went into effect June 1, calls for the company to pick up the roll off twice monthly. Additional pickups will be \$400 each, although during the two-month trial of central bulk pickup, the company lowered the rate of extra pickups to \$250 each, Goodwine said. Republic also said they could put a 30- or 40 cu. ft. container at the site.

Republic was going to charge Hoopeston \$76,000 per year to continue bulk pickup, so the council approved the new contract with a central drop off point. But, Goodwine said, at the rate the roll off is filling, the savings could dwindle to \$45,000.

Officials believe non-Hoopeston residents are getting rid of things at the roll off. Also, people are getting rid of items not legal for a landfill to accept. Two big televisions were at the roll off Tuesday.

Barb Kuhles, who lives in the 600 block of Sycamore, near the roll off site, called the situation "a mess.

"We live in a good area," she said. People try to keep up." Already seeing red foxes, coyotes, raccoons and mice, "we're also going to start seeing rats," she said. Kids play on articles in the roll off and the area has glass on the ground.

Representatives of Republic Services will be invited to the July 2 council meeting to discuss the matter.

In other business, Goodwine pitched a plan to fix

Briefly

Bennett to meet with residents

State Rep. Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City) will meet with constituents in Hoopeston on Thursday June 20, beginning at 5:15 p.m. at Hoopeston City Hall.

Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements.

Weather

Flash Flood Watch until 1 p.m. Thursday. Heavy rain today. High 74. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 58. Tomorrow, partly sunny, thunderstorms likely late. High 81, low 67.

the exposed walls adjacent to a demolished building at 205 E. Main. Goodwine suggested the city could fill below grade joist holes left by the demolition. That work could be done for about \$4,000. Filling top and bottom joist holes would cost about \$19,000.

However, Goodwine said, either of those would leave each building with an unattractive outside wall.

Instead, he recommends siding the buildings, if each owner agrees to pay half of the additional expense. He sought and was given verbal approval to seek bids for the work.

In unrelated business, the council:

Heard from Florek that the Sixth St. sewer lining project is expected to start June 20. Residents in the area have received information about it.

Heard from Ald. Jeff Wise, street/alley committee chairman, that at the end of last year, Hoopeston had 100 trees that needed to be taken down. That number has grown to 150-200 on the list of trees that are dead or dying and are potentially dangerous and will be a higher priority than those who want healthy trees removed.

Street and alley employees will be working on the list as quickly as they can.

Learned from Ald. Alex Houmes, parks committee chairman, that the base for new playground features at McFerren Park will be dug this week, weather permitting. Installing equipment is set for next week. "If the rains hold off, it should all be done in three weeks," he said.

The meeting is open to the public and appointments are not required. Those who cannot attend or who have questions at any other time can contact Bennett at (815) 432-0106 or through his website at repben-nett.com.

Classifieds

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HELP WANTED

Full time help at Ravens Livestock. Requires CDL. No logbook, home every night. Call (217) 304-1943.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for the Water/Sewer Department. Must have CDL or ability to obtain one within 60 days of hiring. Experience operating heavy equipment, mechanical skills a plus. Applications may be picked up at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

Golf Course Superintendent needed at Hubbard Trail Country Club. Knowledge of the use and maintenance of golf course mowing equipment is essential. Send resume to HTCC PO Box 305 Hoopeston, IL 60942 or call 217-748-6521.

Our growing chiropractic office is looking for an ambitious person for the position of Practice Representative who can help us continue to grow. Experience not necessary for the right person if they are self-motivated, have a good attitude and professionalism. Must be willing and able to learn and pay attention to detail. Excellent oral communication, customer service and presentation skills a must. Applicants must have a valid driver's license, and transportation with insurance. This is a marketing/sales type position. Interviews will begin immediately. Send

Membership potluck

Hoopeston Area Women Making a Difference will hold its annual membership drive potluck at 6 p.m. Tuesday. Please bring a covered dish to share at Hoopeston Multi Agency. WMD is open to women 18-100.

resume to Box F, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

Looking for a fulfilling job in the natural health care field? Busy chiropractic office needs a team oriented, multi-tasking person. Candidate will be trained to assist with patient care. Customer service and phone skills a must. This is a part time position with strong potential to be full-time. Send resume to Box G, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942.

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