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Just the Facts

Thursday, August 8, 2019

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City, Republic Services officials praise bulk pickup program

City of Hoopeston's bulk garbage pickup program, which had its second installment last Saturday, got a thumbs-up from both the city's side and Republic Services.

"I think the bulk that was tried for two Saturdays now has worked," said Toby Wolfe, operations manager for Republic Services in Danville, at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Moving the collection from the soccer fields on South Sixth Ave., stopped illegal dumping and is giving officials a true picture of the city's bulk needs, he added.

Ald. Bill Goodwine, who took on the bulk garbage issue, also had praise for the program, saying in the two collection dates - July 20 and again last Saturday - only two people have been turned down: one for bringing garbage that could go in a blue tote and the other did not have a driver's license to prove Hoopeston residency.

Goodwine has been at both collections and offered his thoughts. "I think Hoopeston is about out of mattresses," he said. "There's been a lot of those." But residents have not tried to dispose of banned items, like televisions, batteries or tires.

One resident made three trips to the collection site, carrying heavy pieces of furniture on his back, said Ald. Carl Ankenbrand.

Goodwine said the pickup went up 50 percent between the first and second collections and that it is too soon to tell exactly what the city's needs will be.

Republic Service has allowed Hoopeston to test the bulk program for a couple months before finalizing a new contract between them. The previous contract provided free bulk pickup but under the new agreement, curbside bulk pickup will add \$76,000 to the bill - a fee Goodwine is trying to whittle down.

In working towards a final contract, Goodwine made suggestions that included that each collection have available two 30-yard roll offs per collection date but that
See BULK on other side



Running royalty

Lauren Linares, Miss Hoopeston 2019, keeps a firm hand on her crown as she runs for home during a kickball game Sunday. The game was just one activity during the Back-to-School Social, sponsored by Linares. The event, for children in grades K-8, also including other outdoor games, designing bookmarks, notebooks and folders and coloring pictures of Miss Hoopeston. Free ice cream was served by Hoopeston Rotary Club and participants got to swim free at Hoopeston Swimming Pool. All events were held in McFerren Park.

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Setting the Record

Bulk continued from other side

the number be based on seasonality, slowing in December and picking up in the spring. He also requested the city reserve the right to return to curbside pickup, if necessary.

Susan Piazza, Republic senior area manager, called the latter request "unusual" but agreed as long as Hoopeston provided a 60-day notice of its plan to return to curbside bulk pickup and go to the increased rate.

Obituaries

EELLS - Susan Elizabeth "Susie" Eells, 65, of Mattoon, formerly of Hoopeston, died August 1, 2019 in Champaign. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the noon memorial service Saturday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Amity Cemetery, Goodwine. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

STUMPH - Francis "Frank" Stumph, 76, of Hoopeston, died at 9:14 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5, 2019, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Ald. Robin Lawson asked whether, if the city did not use its two roll offs per month, they could be used in other places for clean up.

Piazza said they could not do that for residents' use but would for city use and suggested the city have 48 roll offs per calendar year and that "if you use 46, you lose two. They won't carry over."

Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said he will schedule a finance committee meeting to finalize the proposal, so the city may finalize the contract.

Wolfe and Piazza fielded questions on other matters, including resident complaints that Republic Services does not return phone calls. Goodwine said administration staff reported many such calls and that he received a resident complain on the issue before Tuesday's meeting.

From the Blotter

Chase Hensley, 23, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 12:39 a.m. Tuesday in the 700 block of East Young. Wanted on a warrant, he was also charged with criminal damage to property over \$500.

Hensley was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Ankenbrand said Hoopeston Area officials have called about the condition of the high school dumpster, which is rusting out, but did not receive a return call.

Wolfe explained that Republic is moving from rear load to front load cans and have not been replacing existing containers.

Ankenbrand suggested they contact the school and keep them informed.

In related discussion, Ald. Alex Houmes said city hall has a digital directory for incoming calls and asked if Republic would like their number added for direct transfer.

Piazza was enthusiastic about the idea. Having the phone numbers of customers would increase the company's database for phone blasts for scheduling changes and other announcements.

Wolfe said he would look into the complaints.

Ald. Jeff Wise said he has heard complaints about a service for disabled residents that seemingly was discontinued.

tinued.

Previously, Republic driver would take a disabled resident's totes to the truck, empty it and returns it to the residence. Wise said residents

"We will always offer that service," Piazza said, adding the company's only request is tote is visible from the street.

Wolfe said disabled residents should call dispatch to request the service.

"We need to make sure it's someone who legitimately needed," Goodwine said. "I personally think the best solution is a neighbor," he added.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today. High 85. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 58. Tomorrow, sunny. High 81, low 58.

Classifieds

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Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has openings for the following positions for the 2019-20 school year:

•Part-Time (18 hours per week) Special Education Paraprofessional Aide at Maple Elementary School (Paraprofessional license recommended or 60 college credit hours)

•Special Education Paraprofessional Aide at John Greer Elementary School (Paraprofessional license recommended or 60 college credit hours)

•Personal Aide positions at Hoopeston Area High School Applications are available online at Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us

The City of Hoopeston is seeking applications for a fulltime Multi-Departmental position. Applicant must have a CDL or the ability to obtain one within 60 days of hire. The ability to operate and maintain equipment a plus. Please inquire at City Hall for more information about the position, 217-283-5833. Applications may be picked up and returned to City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

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