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Monday, July 27, 2020

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Council considers fowl ordinance

Hoopeston City Council is seeking input from citizens concerning a proposed ordinance that would allow chickens in the city limits.

Ald. Carl Ankenbrand, police committee chairman, brought up the ordinance at last week's council meeting. City humane officer Sherry Klemme requested officials consider an ordinance allowing chickens since many people currently have them illegally, while others have other fowl, such as turkeys and peacocks, which are not listed as illegal poultry.

The proposed ordinance is based on Champaign's, and would limit the number of chickens to six for up to one acre of ground. Roosters would be banned under the law, which also sets out coop and run requirements, as well as food storage and waste disposal. Existing ordinances about animal cruelty, and others, must be followed.

Under the proposal, those who wish to raise chickens would pay a \$50 license fee. A license would be granted after an inspection to make sure resident's chicken setup meets standards. The license would renew yearly, and for those with no infractions, there would be no additional fee.

Licensing may be denied to people who owe the city money, such as unpaid water bills or who have, in the previous five years, pleaded guilty or been convicted of violating city animal, noise, property maintenance or zoning ordinances.

"How are chickens not livestock," asked Ald. Chad Yaden, who is not in favor of chickens in Hoopeston.

"They are," answered Mayor Bill Crusinberry.

"Pigs and cows are livestock," said Ald. Lourdine Florek, who has suggested for several years that officials should allow chickens. "Chickens are fowl."

"If you're harvesting eggs, they become livestock," he responded.

"I believe you are mistaken," she replied.

Crusinberry said residents who currently have chickens are doing so illegally, because an ordinance specifically bans them. He raised the issue a couple of years ago, "but

See FOWL on other side



Mike Bane gets a nasal swab Friday from Morgan Soderlund at a drive-up COVID-19 testing site in the Hoopeston Area High School parking lot. Mobile testing sites were held throughout Vermilion County last week.

County COVID-19 tests top 10,000, confirmed cases rise

A mobile testing unit in Hoopeston Friday tested 123 people for COVID-19.

Testing units, sponsored by Illinois Department of Public Health, were in different Vermilion County communities last week, offering drive-up and walk-up nasal swabs for the novel coronavirus.

Those tested at the sites could expect to receive results in four to seven days, said Doug Toole, Vermilion Coun-

ty Public Health Administrator.

The number of positive cases has been rising in Vermilion County. Nine positive cases were announced Friday, include a toddler, three people in their 20s, two in their 50s, two in their 30s and a person in his 60s. Of those, two share one household and three share a different household.

See CASES on other side

From the Blotter

Renee Chandler, 47, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 12:11 a.m. Thursday to the 400 block of north Ninth Ave. She was charged with domestic battery and interfering with reporting domestic battery on a complaint from a 46-year-old Hoopeston man. Chandler was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment. A **Superman watch** was found Thursday in the 200

Fowl continued from other side

nobody wanted to enforce it,” he said. Crusinberry said he received three calls in the 24 hours preceding Tuesday’s meeting about chickens. One complained about chickens on Fifth St. that come into a neighboring yard “because they’re not fenced properly,” he said. Ankenbrand said there is a coop in the back yard but the owners let them out and the chickens wander into other yards. Florek said not all residents should be punished because of a few, but Crusinberry said if only 50 households want to raise chickens, that would be punishing the 2,000 that don’t. Ald. Robin Lawson said officials have a hard time keeping up with people not keeping their grass or property up. “How are we going to keep up with this,” she asked. “Sherry will be enforcing it,” Florek answered.

Cases continued from other side

There are currently 37 people in home confinement and one hospitalized, Toole said. In the 60942 area code, which encompasses Cheneyville and Hoopeston, the number of confirmed cases, which was 18 on Friday, rose by one Saturday. Vermilion County stands at 141 positive cases and 10,441 negative cases. Of the 141, 101 have been released/recovered one is hospitalized and two have died. Toole announced no new cases Saturday. While the number of positive cases is increasing, the county is still within the parameters of Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s reopening metrics. For the week of July 12-18, the county was at 42 new cases per 100,000, less than the 50/100,000 target. The county’s positivity rate was at 2.6 percent, less than the target of less or equal to eight percent. There were no deaths, meeting the target of decreasing or stable.

block of West Penn. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station. A **black Android** Samsung A20 phone in case was found Thursday on Sixth Ave. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station. **Two Rossville women** were arrested after a traffic stop at 4:38 p.m. Thursday at South Market and East Elm.

Crusinberry quoted part of the ordinance that mandates coops be cleaned at least weekly. “Are we going to go around once a week and check every coop,” he asked. “Why would we have to go around and inspect them,” Ald. Bill Goodwine asked. “We don’t inspect people with dogs, only if someone complains. You don’t inspect every garbage tote to make sure there’s no used oil in them.” Florek, whose family had chickens when she was a child, agreed that “chickens do stink,” but said regular cleaning and disposal of waste, such as through composting, eliminates the problem. City attorney Dave Wesner, who represented the City of Danville when some residents there wanted chickens, offered reflections on the proposed ordinance, saying it provides a way to know who has chickens, and where they are. Additionally, a suggested plan for chickens that are confiscated would allow them to be given to someone out of the city who already raises chickens. Ald. Bill McElhaney said that a few months ago, raising chickens was no big deal because eggs were plentiful, but COVID-19 and egg shortages resulting from the shutdown changed that. “I think that’s what a few people are thinking: ‘I don’t want that to happen again,’” he said. Wesner agreed, saying that the general economy and coronavirus have people “thinking about the nature of providing for themselves.” Ankenbrand suggested residents weigh in on the issue by calling, writing or emailing officials. Alderman contact information is available at www.cityofhoopeston.com. The council is expected to take up the matter August 4.

Weather

Thunderstorms today. High 84. Tonight, chance of storms. Low 61. tomorrow, sunny. High 83, low 64. For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

Tabithia Stephens, 31, and Kaylynn Kruger, were arrested on preliminary charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia after

police allege a search turned up the items. Both were taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

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