

Bertha's Corner



By
BERTHA PARSONS

Make Every Day Count

Every day we have a choice. Am I going to have a great day? Am I going to get things done? Will I decide to make today count? For what?

I love to start my day with my sweet husband, a cup of coffee and a roll. Usually we both have things we want to do and by eleven o'clock we get started,

One day when we were celebrating being well and together we chose to go out to eat. A sweet lady I've known for years came to our table to tell me how much she enjoyed Bertha's Corner and looked forward to it every few weeks. Boy! Did that make my day!

She asked how I came up with the ideas. Well, I start by sitting at my in-home office desk and I ask God what am I going to write about today? I wait and with-in a few minutes the ideas begin to come and I start writing.

Why, you ask, is it so important to make every day count? I just don't like to waste anything, especially my days, because Mama often reminded me, "You only get one chance at today" How exciting is that?

As we start the day do we really stop and think how wonderful this day can be, and what can we do to make it wonderful?

As I may have said in the past I like to make a to-do list each day. It makes me feel like I'm really getting things done as I check each item off my list. When I worked at the newspaper I always had a to-do list.

Did I do everything on the list that day? Probably not, but I gave it a "best Bertha's" try. So at the end of the day I felt either really good or really bad.

You see, making every day count is a matter over your mind. You have to think about the day! You have to want the day to go as planned or not! For me there is no giving up! I want to do something, anything to make this day count!

Now I can tell you are wondering, "what makes a day, yours or mine count?"

See BERTHA on other side



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Lots from demo projects for sale, new demo list announced

For sale: four residential lots in Hoopeston.

Mike Davis, Central Illinois Land bank director, wants to get the word out that the lots where four houses were recently demolished are up for sale.

Davis spoke at last week's Hoopeston City Council meeting and asked aldermen to let people know lots are available at 801 E. Wyman, 411 W. Penn, 305 S. Second Ave. and 406 Front.

"I'm not selling these at rock bottom prices," Davis said, admitting he will not recoup what was paid to demolish the houses. "I'm not going to be whole," he said. "I'm spending \$10,000 to \$20,000 on these demolitions."

At the very least, Davis would like to get back the \$800

the land bank paid to the county tax trustees for each property.

If the properties sell, the money will go to the land bank. If they remain unsold after a year, they will revert to the city, he said.

Davis updated the council on existing and new projects during his presentation. He hopes to have titles to 908 W. Washington and 406 E. Thompson in the next month or so. Two properties, 210 E. Washington and 520 E. Honeywell, are in the court system and hopefully will be resolved in November.

Davis plans to package the four into one demolition project and has concerns about the cost of 520 W. Honeywell, the former Dyer mansion, damaged in a 2015 fire and exposed to the elements since then. "I'm terrified of the cost of that one," he said. "I don't think that's going to be a \$10,000 teardown."

Davis is working to have four additional properties slated for fast track demolition. He explained that under fast track, he will have 120 days to get the houses through the process from inspection to demolition completed. "You really need to have all your ducks in a row, get everything done, soup to nuts" in the allotted time, he said.

Properties he mentioned for fast track demolition include 324 and 628 East McCracken and 217, 320 and

See DEMO on other side

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Thank you for support

There are not enough words to express our most sincere appreciation to all those who made John's benefit such a huge success. He was truly overwhelmed at the number of friends and family who came out in support. You'll never know how much that meant to him. A huge thank you to our kids and friends who worked so hard to put this all together. You all did a wonderful job.

Thank you to Hubbard Trail Country Club staff for all your help and hard work. Without you, things would not have run so smoothly.

Thank you to all the golfers who made the golf tour-

Demo continued from other side

322 Front. He would consider accepting donations of the properties from the owners if they come with clean titles.

Thus far, the land bank has taken on only residential properties, but Davis is turning an eye to commercial properties, thanks to a new state Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant program.

The grant program was recently announced and awards

Letters to the Editor

nament a success. It was an amazing turnout!

A special thank you to all the individuals and businesses who donated items for the auction and those who bid and bought the items. Your overwhelming generosity is unsurpassed!

Thank you Larry Baughn for sharing your auctioneering talents. You are like no other!

Thank you to all the musicians who spent a lot of time setting up and tearing down music equipment. You all sounded great and John had a blast playing with some of you.

And most of all a most sincere thank you to everyone who came out and visited with John. Some of you

will range from \$250,000 to \$3 million, Davis said. He envisions a collaboration among Hoopeston, the land bank and Vermilion Advantage to get maximum effect and dollars.

The grant requires matching dollars, but Davis said he was told tax increment financing and landfill funds might be available. Applications for the grant are due in January, he said.

In related discussion about funding, Davis said there was no cost to join the land bank when it started, but in the long term, member communities will be asked to consider "a fair fee for service" for operating costs.

Bertha continued from other side

A question I absolutely love. Because along with my to-do list I have a side bar for things to do to make me smile and happy! Such as call a friend or neighbor just to check in on them. Give my hubby a good morning hug. Say a prayer of thanks for all I have and thanks for the things I do not have or need.

Every day counts, no matter who you are, where you live, or what you do. The important thing is that we make good use of today and we are thankful.

"The only preparation for tomorrow is making the right use of today." *Author unknown.*

Comments? Email BerthasCorner@gmail.com

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 74. Tonight, partly cloudy, Low 63. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 76, low 63.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

traveled quite a long way to be here –it meant so much. We truly feel blessed to belong in a community who supports their own in such a loving way. We will always remember this day and forever be so very grateful.

Sincerely,
 John & Jeannie Zollar

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