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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
 Hoopeton's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeton IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Hinkle retires, Chamber to merge with Vermilion Advantage

After 12 years at the helm, Valarie Hinkle has retired from her role as Hoopeton Chamber of Commerce president.

Hinkle was honored on her retirement at a farewell party April 5 at the Hoopeton Multi Agency, where fellow Chamber officers, city dignitaries and others whose paths intersected with hers came to wish her well. Her last day will be April 30.

Hinkle assumed the mantle of Chamber president in 2011 because, "I wanted to make a difference in our community," she said.

The thing she is most proud of in her tenure is the revitalization of Hoopeton's downtown. "My husband (Mark Hinkle) knew of my passion to revive downtown Hoopeton," she said, "which is why we purchased the old Manion law office, remodeled and...started our business, Simple Treasures, even though we both had full

See HINKLE on other side



Photo provided
 Valarie Hinkle celebrates her retirement at Hoopeton Chamber of Commerce president at a gathering Friday at the Hoopeton Multi Agency. Also pictured, from left, are Lourdine Florek, owner of Just the Facts and Ald. Kellie Ferrell.

WMD, KVCB to host clean up day in Hoopeton April 29

Hoopeton's Women Making A Difference and Keep Vermilion County Beautiful are teaming up for a Hoopeton Clean Up Day.

"Trees for Trash," in which volunteers will be able to receive free trees for participating in the cleanup, will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 29.

Volunteers will meet at C&D Outdoor Improvements, 329 W. Main. Donuts, donated by 112, and coffee, donated by Danville Starbucks, will be available. Volunteers will get a team and choose which area of the city to clean.

Volunteers and their trash will return to C&D, where Republic Services will donate a bin to collect the trash. Volunteers may then select a tree, donated by Vermilion County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Volunteers with golf carts are welcome and needed.

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Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10 am-6 pm
Wednesday	10 a.m.-6 pm
Thursday	10 am.-6 pm
Friday	10 am-6 pm
Saturday	10 am-4 pm




Shop Small Business Hoopeton ILLINOIS

Briefly

Meetings

Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Hoopeston City Hall. Agenda and Zoom link will be available at www.cityofhoopeston.com.

Hoopeston Area School Board, 6 p.m. Thursday, high school library. The board will immediately go into executive session and the public portion of the meeting will follow. Agenda will be available at www.hoopeston.k12.il.us.

Alive Inside

Hoopeston Rotary and the Lorraine Foundation are partnering to present a community screening of *Alive Inside*, a film about people suffering with dementia and how music impacts their lives. The film will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19 and 3 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at the Little Lorraine, 214 E. Main. Director Michael Rossato-Bennett will join the audience after each performance to discuss the film and answer questions.

To reserve a seat at either performance, please call

Hinkle continued from other side

time jobs.”

Simply Treasures, which offered new and used home décor, opened in 2015 at 216 S. Market, while Hinkle was also serving as community liaison for Gibson Hospital & Health Care.

Asked if anything on her to-do list is undone, Hinkle said, “Really nothing I wanted to get done, but getting a dentist office in town has always been something I wanted to see happen and hopefully, Gibson Hospital will accomplish that in the near future.”

Her best memory of her time with the Chamber is something that has become the group’s signature, annual event: The Magical Express Christmas event.

Started in 2013, The Magical Express was, at first, the shuttle that took children to the McFerren Park Civic Center for “The Magic of Christmas,” where youngsters could meet Santa and take part in holiday activities, such as cookie-decorating and festive face painting.

The event became The Magical Express in 2014 and has continued such since then.

The best part of the Magic Express, Hinkle said, is “watching the excitement on the kids’ faces when they see Santa.”

Although Hinkle is retiring, she and others will reunite for this year’s Magical Express. Abby Eberly, Chamber treasurer and Maple School Project Success employee, will coordinate the event and Hinkle and

(217) 283-4170 or email k.coon@dacc.edu.

Koffee & Konversation

Hoopeston Methodist Church will hold Koffee & Konversation at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Free coffee, sweets and conversation. All are welcome!

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Littles @ the Library, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Pre-school story, craft and playtime for children from birth to age 5 and their caregivers.

Coffee, Craft & Conversation 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew and other needlecraft, along with those who do other portable handcrafts are inviting to bring their projects and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

Kids STEAM Lab, 3:30 p.m. Thursday. For kids of all ages. This week, Flower Pop Art

HPL Seed Library is open for the season. Stop by and “check out” a few packets of seeds as you make plans for your flower and vegetable gardens. Donations

other Chamber members will step up to guide Eberly and her crew.

One of the things Hinkle has done as president is bring attention to new businesses - as well as existing businesses relocating to a different location or getting new owners - by way of ribbon-cuttings. Hinkle said she doesn’t know how many ribbon-cuttings she’s been involved with but said for many years, there were none. “But things have changed and we have been doing several the past three years,” she said. “We’re always so excited to welcome new business owners to our community and look forward to even more ribbon cuttings and greater things to come.”

Hinkle doesn’t have a least-favorite memory from her Chamber years, but does have “a disappointment that due to our busy lives, it’s hard for people to find time to get involved in our community organizations.”

It is because of the lack of volunteers that Hoopeston’s Chamber will merge with Vermilion Advantage, when Hinkle and other Chamber members retire this year.

Because no one stepped up to volunteer, the board reached out to Vermilion Advantage’s Nicole Van Hyfte, who serves as director of the Danville Chamber of Commerce.

Hinkle said she and Vermilion Advantage representatives met with Mayor Jeff Wise to discuss the vacant Chamber positions and the benefits Vermilion Advantage

of leftover packaged seeds are still being accepted.

For more information on library programs, call (217) 283-6711 or visit 110 N. Fourth St.

HMA activities

Women's Morning Donut Group meets at 8:15 a.m. every Wednesday in the large room at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. Come join us!

Card group meets Wednesday for euchre starting 12:30.

For more information on Multi Agency programs, call (217) 283-5544 or stop by 206 S. First Ave.

Breast cancer support

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support group meets the third Thursday of each month at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes Bowling Alley. The next meeting will be April 20. Please spread the word and join us for a meeting to offer support to past and present breast cancer survivors.

For more information, call Pat Foster, (815) 984-4040 or (309) 208-9829.

would bring to Hoopeston businesses. “He agreed it would be a beneficial move,” she said.

The Chamber board - Hinkle, vice-president Beth Knecht of Hoopeston Multi Agency, Eberly, secretary Diane Theesfeld, Vanessa From of Autumn Fields and Katina Opgenorth from Adecco, - approved the change, which Hinkle said “was based on the best interest of our community businesses.”

Chamber account funds will remain in a local bank, allocated for The Magical Express and local events in the Hoopeston area, Hinkle added.

The Chamber’s Welcome banners will continue to be available to businesses during the National Sweetcorn Festival and will be included as part of the business memberships, she said.

Hinkle is leaving the Chamber with a thankful heart. She is thankful for Knecht, Van Hyfte and Joy Gocking for their work on her retirement party and thankful for all those who came out to celebrate her retirement.

The occasion featured a Taste of Hoopeston, as Knecht organized food from Hoopeston restaurants to feed guests at the event, while Gocking designed center pieces and other niceties for the celebration.

Hinkle is thankful for the love, support, flowers and gifts she received. “I am truly thankful and blessed,” she said. “It has been an honor to serve the Hoopeston community.”

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 7:13 p.m. Saturday to the 400 block of South Fourth St., for a reported illegal burn.

Court Dispositions

March 8

Tracy A. Grabinski, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for general nuisance, found guilty by default, fined \$10 plus abatement order of \$100-per-day fines; status hearing April 12.

Mayra Parades, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for general nuisance, default entered, case sent to state for further enforcement.

Tina I. Menzo, Hoopeston, appeared at status hearing for general nuisance in two cases, fined \$180 in each; status hearing April 12.

Weather

FROST ADVISORY until 9 a.m. Sunny today. High 58. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 42. Tomorrow, cloudy, breezy, chance of thunderstorms, storms, storms likely late. High 76, low 59.

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

Classifieds

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The Vermilion Housing Authority in Hoopeston is hiring a Maintenance Mechanic, starting pay \$20/hr. Applications available online at www.vermilionhousing.com.

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13293

Silgan Containers is hiring an Electrician – Industrial/Maintenance Technician. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13392

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.