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By
BERTHA PARSONS

Instead of Thinking

Here we are, half a year gone and my to-do list is not half done! Where did yesterday go? What have I been doing? Where did I spend my money? What places did I eat at all month? What was I thinking?

How many times have you been asked, "What do you think of this idea?" Well, I'll start with me. The first part of June, I got two phone calls about changes people would like me to help implement in our community. All interesting and good ideas, but what could I do to help? There are lots of other people better-equipped with good answers than mine! I don't really have the time to dive into the situation right now. Besides it wasn't really my call.

Now I know you are thinking, "Bertha, you always get involved with our community improvements." Well, maybe I shouldn't. Let someone else come up with their ideas. Someone should figure out the \$\$ for the program. Will it really help our community or is it designed to just make us look good?

Many years ago, I was on a committee to help improve sales in downtown stores. At that time, my husband and I had a men's clothing store downtown. We took surveys, we talked to other businesses. All of us on the committee thought we had the perfect, no-fail plan.

When the plan was presented to the board and members it did not go over well! We had been thinking and thinking and planning what, how and when it should be done.

It was there that I learned that instead of over-thinking I need to act! Action is what will make your ideas, plans and hopes come to life! Sometimes we spend too much time just thinking. Yes, our thoughts can and do overtake our life sometimes. Is it a positive idea? Should we or shouldn't we? So, instead of thinking so much about "how to" or "what if" and "should I?," we should just jump on the plan, the idea and decide how to make it work!

It is indeed the easiest and best advice I can give you. Decide what you want to do, then make the plan come to life! Stop thinking about it, just do it!

I promise you will surprise yourself and others by your actions. Believe in yourself and you will succeed!

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Hoopeston City Council debates silencing outdoor sirens

Sounding storm sirens may become a thing of the past in Hoopeston when aldermen finish debating whether to repair a currently malfunctioning one.

The siren at Sixth St. and Elm has not sounded for some time and fixing it will be pricy.

"I'm not saying I don't want to warn people," said Ald. Robin Lawson, who acted as mayor pro tempore at the June 20 meeting. "I just know it's \$5,200 to fix one." Officials could try to find a grant, but that could take six months, she said.

The cost to replace the siren would be \$25,000. The city has three sirens, Lawson noted, which are sounded fewer than five times per year.

The purpose of the sirens is to warn people who are outdoors that a tornado has been spotted close to Hoopeston.

Countywide, sirens are sounded when Vermilion County is under a tornado warning, said Fire Chief Joel Bird, who is also District 1 representative to the Vermilion County Board. In Hoopeston, however, sirens ring when Hoopeston Emergency Management Agency (HEMA) personnel spot a tornado near the city. Sirens are also sounded at night when storm activity is happening and there are sustained winds of at least 65 m.ph.

Ald. Stephen Eyrich suggest people text their zip code to 888777, to receive notifications from Nixle, a notification service. "Everybody has a smart phone," he said, adding the siren often has the opposite effect. Instead of taking shelter, "people run outside to see the tornado."

Lawson suggested residents could also get NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) radio, which also sounds for severe weather, but said "I don't know what the answer is."

The council is expected to discuss the issue again at its next meeting.

In other business, the council heard from former resident Matthew Lacy via Zoom, regarding his mother, Sharon's house at 709 W. Washington.


See COUNCIL on other side

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Briefly

Food cupboard updates

- Grant Township Food Cupboard is in need of pork & beans and peas. Any donations of foods or hygiene items are appreciated. Donations to the Food Cupboard are down and the number of people needing food has increased.
- The Food Cupboard Board of Directors is seeking new and younger members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Sharon Roark, President.

Meetings are held quarterly.

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.

From the Blotter

A **17-year-old** Hoopeston boy was ticketed after a traffic stop at 10:48 p.m. Sunday at West Orange and South Second Ave. He was cited for speeding, 55 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone, and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Courtney St. Clair, 33, of Hoopeston, was arrested an 80-year-old Hoopeston woman reported someone in her apartment in the 600 block of South Second Ave.

After investigating, police charged St. Clair with criminal trespass to residence. She was processed at the police station and released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

Walter L. Hills, 59, of Fairmount, was arrested

at 7:27 p.m. at South Fifth St. and East Main. He was charged with driving while license revoked and failure to obey a traffic control device and was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 3:59 p.m. Sunday to Heritage Health, 423 N. Dixie Hwy., for an activated carbon monoxide detector. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters were called at 4:06 p.m. Sunday to N 1830 East Rd. and Rt. 9 for a tree on fire. No injuries were reported.

Council continued from other side

Lacy told the council that his mother is trying to sell her home - at which the family has lived for more than 43 years - to relocate with Texas with him, but is having difficulty due to the burned out house at 703 W. Washington. A realtor suggested the asking price of the home be lowered to sell more quickly because of the damaged structure, he said.

Lacy asked that the council consider prioritize demolishing 703 W. Washington. He also offered his services if he could help move the process along. "I know this is no small task," he said, adding he would appreciate "any update or any news you can give me."

The council also heard from April Jones, who updated the council on updates about the skate park, including a request that the skating area be expanded by 10' east and 10' and put a fence around the area to keep small children from running to the skate park when it is in use.

A skate jam will be held August 5 as a fundraiser for the improvements, she said, adding she is not asking officials for more money. "We appreciate what you did

last year," she said.

In other action, the council:

- Approved the 2023-24 appropriation ordinance.
- On a motion from Ald. Joe Garrett, seconded by Ald. Kellie Ferrell, rejected a \$608.18 bid from Emergency Remarketing of Ohio for HEMA truck.
- Approved a \$1,000 bid from Kevin and Debra Tyler for a vacant lot at 1009 W. Main. The house on the property was damaged in a fire and debris was recently removed.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 81. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 56. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of showers, thunderstorms late. High 85, low 64.

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



Say you saw it in Just the Facts!

Letters to the Editor

Lorraine Foundation praised for show

Kudos to the Lorraine Foundation for having Randy Shields and granddaughter Adie present a phenomenal evening of humor and magic tricks. It was a family-friendly performance and God-honoring. This is what our town, county and country need more of.

Mark Wagoner
 Hoopeston

Letters to the Editor policy

Just the Facts welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed by the writer and must include a daytime phone number for verification. Letters must be in good taste and of general interest to readers. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters may be mailed to P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942, or emailed to publish@justthefacts.net.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring 2nd Shift Line Mechanics, \$21/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com. Applications available onsite. EOE

City of Hoopeston is seeking applicants for seasonal employment with the Water/Sewer Department. Job duties will include, but are not limited to, changing out meters and flushing hydrants. The department will train. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and a HS diploma or equivalent. Applications can be found at cityofhoopeston.com/employment or at City Hall, 301 W Main St. For more information please call 217-283-5833.

Truck Drivers needed. Must have clean driving record. Contact Brent @ 815-405-4000 sintruckinginc@gmail.com

Aquality Solutions is looking for men or women to deliver its products to area businesses and residential customers. This position offers benefits and incentive bonuses. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

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.

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