New year to bring remediation work to former foundry; demo partners needed

As Christmas nears, residents may notice big equipment being parked at Vermilion Iron Works, 220 N. Sixth Ave., said Harry Brockus, of Hoopeston Land Improvements, Inc.

Hoopeston Land Improvements, Inc., is not affiliated with, but has the same directors, as Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation, he said.

That equipment is not part of a plan to get the foundry up and running, but rather will be used for asbestos abatement at the former foundry, bringing it one step closer to demolition.

An Indiana company has been hired to remove asbestos. Work is set to begin January 6, 2020, and is expected to take six to eight weeks. The work will cost $180,000.

Brockus is looking for partners for the costliest aspect of the project: demolishing the foundry and returning the land to the city as a park.

The price tag for total demolition is $650,000, a cost “far higher than even I was expecting,” he said.

The final piece will be to work with the Environment Protection Agency to close out the landfill at the site. An environmental study on the property shows slag - junk metal from the foundry process - in the soil. Brockus said ground would rank as a low level landfill, by EPA standards.

Vermilion Iron began in 1907 and in 1946, was purchased by Deere & Co., to manufacture malleable iron castings for its equipment. John Deere Malleable Iron Works became Vermilion Iron Corps when it sold and the name was changed in 1976. It became Vermilion Iron Works in 1993.

The plant closed in February 2007. In April 2007, a Chicago investor purchased it and Vermilion Iron Works was back in business, albeit on a smaller scale. It closed again when Packard Engineering disbanded. In 2013, it was sold to BS of Hoopeston, Inc., at a tax sale and was sold to Hoopeston Land Improvements on July 6, 2018.

Hoopeston Land Improvements was formed in April 2018, according to Illinois Secretary of State corporation information. It was to shield Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation from the liability that might be associated with the Vermilion Iron project, Brockus said.

Illinois Secretary of State corporation information currently shows the corporation was involuntarily dissolved on Friday, Sept. 13, 2019.

According to Vermilion County tax information, 2018 parcel taxes of $732.30 on the site - payable this year - were not paid and were sold.
Briefly

Wreaths across America ceremony
A Wreaths across America ceremony will be held at Red Top Cemetery at 11 a.m. Saturday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Holiday concert
Doc Ashton and the Root Canals will be in concert at 2 p.m. Sunday Milford United Methodist Church, 118 N. Axtel Ave. Everyone is invited. The performance is sponsored by the Little Jordan Cluster of United Methodist Churches.

Leaf cleanup ended
Monday was the last day for Hooperston street and alley workers to pick up leaves. Residents who still have leaves may take them to the city yard.

Carle Cisnna Park closed for repairs
As crews fix issues caused by leaking pipes, Carle Cisnna Park patients can receive needed care at the Milford location. Aaron McCray, APN, plans to see patients at 322 N Chicago St., Milford, through Dec. 17. Carle is calling Cisnna Park patients with appointments Dec. 9 – 17 to alert them to the location change. Cisnna Park patients who need an appointment during that time should call (815) 889-4011.

Card shower
Former Hooperston resident Terry Meadow is very ill and friends are holding a cheer or Christmas card shower for them. Cards may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Meadow, P.O. Box 182, Collislon IL 61831. Prayers would also be appreciated.

Koffee & Konversations
Come join us at Hooperston Methodist for Koffee & Konversations! We start at 8:30 a.m. every Tuesday with coffee and donuts or rolls. There is always laughter and sometimes some very interesting conversation. We do not meet on holidays or during blizzards, ice storms or -10 degree days. All are welcome.

At the library
Upcoming events at Hooperston Public Library include:
Homeschool Happenings, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Tuesday. All area homeschool parents and kids welcome. Crafts and other activities for kids of all ages included.
Stitchin’ Time, 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday. Crochet instruction provided. Other needle crafters welcome.
Wild and Wacky Games, 3-4:30 p.m. Thursday. For kids of all ages.

Welcome to the library, November 7
Darrell Estes, Milford, pleaded not guilty to disobeying police; trial December 5.
Darrell Estes, Milford, pleaded not guilty to criminal damage to property; trial December 5.
Iris Gray, Hooperston, status check December 5.
Timothy E. Coo Jr., Hooperston, case sent to state for further enforcement.

Classifieds
APARTMENTS FOR RENT
2 bedroom upstairs apt. Many updates, move-in ready. $400 month. Call 217-504-6780 or 217-304-1103

HELP WANTED
Full Time. Apply in person, 8 miles west of Roseville, Smitty’s Dual Wheel, Inc.

Full-time drivers needed for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not delivering. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hooperston or call us at 855-692-7824.

ANIMAL FEED HOLDING
Sylman Containers is hiring press line mechanics. For more information or to apply, please go online to sylmancontainers.mua.harvard.edu/ats/posting/view/103770.

RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES
Sygma is hiring Class A CDL drivers. Experienced drivers with clean records could qualify for a $12,500 sign on bonus. Sygma is also looking for students for their CDL school. You must be 21 and have your Class A permit to be eligible. We have part time and seasonal work available as well. Go to www.sygnanetwork.com or call 855-770-3216.

FULL-FILL INDUSTRIES
Full-Fill Industries in Henning, IL offers job opportunities for full time/ part time employment. Choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle: 1, 2, 3 or 4 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and can pick their shift. Machine operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift. We also offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. You interested in working for a growing company, apply online at www.full-fill.com or go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE.