

# Bertha's

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By  
**BERTHA PARSONS**

## Spring fever

I love spring. It seems to be slow coming this year. I can hardly wait. I enjoy the flowers peeking out at me in the snow and rain. The smell of grass and weeds give me joy.

Spring into spring as it is the time for renewal, new life, a new song to sing, a new dance to try. Spring lets us see and feel a splash of life all around us.

So much going on in our communities, voting, wonderful fundraiser breakfasts, local businesses planning spring time events. Sad news, good news. Change is coming.

Spring fever is all about the planting, fresh flowers, gardens with lots of goodies to enjoy later, white shoes, short sleeves, swinging in the park, walking around the block, smiling faces everywhere! All because of a warm spring day.

I believe God gave us spring to relish life! It's really true, there is a season and a time for everything. For a fact, I appreciate my life more today, right now, than I did three years ago. It's strange how the warmth of a day, the sun shining through the window, a call from a friend or a hug from my hubby can make me feel like a brand new person. Did spring fever do this? Maybe.

As we count down the days of March I'm already thinking about new flowers and grass to plant, grass to trim, my first garage sale, changing from winter to spring clothing, planning a vacation, shows at the Lorraine Theater or the Little Lorraine. Baseball to watch, real and on TV. Bible schools, college for kids at DACC, Hoopeston, the Sweetcorn Festival and lots more springtime fun things to do.

Give someone a smile, tell someone "Thank You," be grateful for all you have and what you don't have. Think about that!

Spring fever is in each of us. Let's enjoy every moment of it! Don't let negative talk or rain, snow and wind take away your spring fever joy! Go forward with confidence and enjoy life - it's the only one you get!

**SHOP - EAT - SPEND - ENJOY - THINK LOCAL FIRST**

Email:

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# Just the Facts

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348

Lourdine Florek, Owner

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

*Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!*

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## Mayor, Brockus hope to partner on city problems, projects

A partnership between Hoopeston officials and Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation has been suggested to help alleviate problems and move projects along to completion.

A meeting between the council, as a committee of the whole, and Brockus, a member of Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation, was held March 14 to discuss blighted properties.

Five aldermen - Chad Yaden, Bill McElhane, Lourdine Florek, Alex Houmes and Bill Goodwine, along with Mayor Bill Crusinberry - discussed the issue with Brockus and heard comments from residents.

Brockus outlined some of the existing problems: down-

town buildings with falling facades, roofs caving in and other problems; several residential properties in much the same shape; and properties, like the former Vermilion Iron foundry, which will be costly to remove. He said the cost to remove asbestos from the site has been estimated at \$185,000.

Brockus has previously suggested that Hoopeston should market itself as a bedroom community to Danville and other cities, saying that just like many Hoopeston residents travel for their jobs, residents of other communities would prefer a commute to be able to live in a safer community. He reiterated that thought at the meeting.

See PARTNER on other side

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A smile is the curve that you  
throw at another and it always  
results in a hit!  
E. Roger Jones

### DACC Higher Learning Center - Hoopeston Mark Your Calendars and Get Registered Now!!

**Tom Sweeney Lecture Series**  
1980s - Choices and Consequences  
Wednesday, March 28, from 6-8 p.m.

**Digital Photography**  
Wednesday, April 4-25 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Excel 2013**

Wednesday, April 4, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Conversational Spanish II**

Thursday, April 5-May 10, from 6-8 p.m.

**Crocheting for Beginners**

Monday, April 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Visit [DACC.EDU/HOOPESTON](http://DACC.EDU/HOOPESTON) for more info!!

Call for more information and to register!

Call 217-283-4170, stop by 847 E. Orange, Hoopeston  
or visit [www.dacc.edu/hoopeston](http://www.dacc.edu/hoopeston)

To all of my Friends and Family,  
There isn't any way I can every repay you for  
your kindnesses in the past few months.  
Thank you for thinking of me during the  
dreary days of winter.  
Thanks to all of you, I feel much better now.  
Wishing you all a Happy Spring  
and a Blessed Easter.  
Roxie Page

### Hoopeston American Legion

502 E. Penn

# Blue Gill Dinner

plus Sandwiches & Sides

5-8 p.m. Friday



## From the Blotter

**Nathan D. Williams**, 34, of Cerro Gordo, was arrested after a traffic stop at 2:35 a.m. Friday in the 400 block of South Third St. Police alleged the smell of cannabis was emitted from the stopped car while officers were interacting with Williams.

He was charged with driving while license revoked, possession of a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, possession with intent to deliver and on a Macon County warrant. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await a bond hearing and extra-

dition to Macon County. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

**Bradley David**, 31, of Wellington, was arrested after police were called at 10:44 p.m. Friday to the 700 block of First Ave. for a verbal altercation. Police allege Bradley was in possession of a gun. He was charged with possession of a weapon by a felon and possession of drug paraphernalia and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

He was also charged with criminal damage to property on a complaint made February 11 of a damaged seat in Hoopeston's courtroom. He was issued a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

**Police are investigating** a burglary reported at 10:44 p.m. Saturday in the 400 block of East Honeywell. A 57-year-old Hoopeston woman reported someone stole some of her belongings.

**Cynthia Burk**, 55, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 1:07 a.m. Monday to the 300 block of North Ninth Ave.

She was charged with unlawful acts constituting disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 45-year-old Hoopeston woman, who alleged an ongoing harassment issue with Burk, who was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

**Daniel J. Hamilton**, 45, of Hoopeston, was arrested

after police were called at 1:42 p.m. Monday to a domestic battery in progress in the 600 block of South Fourth St. Police allege Hamilton did not comply with orders given to him by officers and he struggled while being arrested.

Preliminary charges filed against Hamilton include domestic battery, interfering with the report of domestic violence and obstructing/resisting a peace officer. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

**There's no place like Hoopeston.**  
And, like you, we're happy to call it home. And we're proud to be here celebrating 15 years of service. Thank you for your business and your trust.



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### Partner continued from other side

Goodwine said officials want to address issues, which also include a \$2.5 million shortfall in the police pension fund, a dwindling population creating a glut of excess homes, but can't do them all.

Brockus asked if Goodwine had no confidence in the economic development plan.

"We need jobs," Goodwine retorted. "Danville has its own employment problems."

"There's not going to be another FMC," Brockus countered, saying Hoopeston has to look at "who we are today and who we want to be."

Crusinberry said the city has to "dig deep in our pockets and start cleaning things up. I think we need to find a way."

On top of blighted properties and the issues Goodwine listed there is also the problem of flooding on the northeast side and other issues. "It seems like there's no individual or group that can tackle it," he said

However, he said, the city "has the power to finance all of this" through a bond issue.

Bonds - debt securities - could be issue to raise money to fund the projects. The bond issue would be repaid with tax dollars, either through money already collected by the

city or by a tax implemented for repayment of the bonds.

As an example, Brockus said the payment on a \$1 million bond would be \$7,200 a month, a cost that could be shared with others. "I'm confident I can raise 50 percent of the monthly payment just from the people I talked to today," he said.

The meeting with the city was not the only time Brockus has raised the possibility of a bond issue. In an interview with Just the Facts in January, he said he would have to approach the city about a multi-million dollar bond issue to continue HRVF's economic development work because foundation funds are being drained and the foundation cannot implement a bond issue.

### Briefly

#### The Gathering

Rossville area senior citizens are invited to The Gathering, a monthly get-together held at 1 p.m. Thursday at Rossville First Station.

#### Maple Book Fair

Maple School will hold a book fair from 2:30-5 p.m. Wednesday at 2:30-7 p.m. Thursday for students, parents and grandparents.

#### At the library

Tiny Tots, 10:20-11:30 Friday. For children ages 0-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

#### Weather

Partly sunny today. High 42. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 25. Tomorrow, sunny. High 47, low 30.

## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Very spacious apartment for rent in a great neighborhood. 2 bedroom, dining room, living room, office, kitchen and bath. Lots of storage. \$550 a month includes water, gas, and trash pickup. Call 217-772-1203 for an application.

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### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

2 plots at Floral Hill Cemetery. \$625 for both. Call (815) 889-4792 or (815) 471-4854.

### NOTICES

#### NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Hoopeston Illinois for planting the perpetual car urns and pots for Floral Hill Cemetery. Specifications may be picked up at the City Municipal Building. Bids will be opened April 3, 2018 at the City Municipal Building.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive technicalities in bidding.

Gail Lane

City Clerk

Dates of Publication:

March 21, 2018

March 28, 2018

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or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!