

HAMPTON TOWNE CRIER

Year IX

April 1999

Volume I

Meet the Candidates for Village Board

By Michaela VanDieren

The Towne Crier asked each candidate the same four questions in order to remain objective. Their responses will be listed below. Voters on April 13 will be selecting three trustees for four year terms and one trustee for a two year term. Incumbents seeking re-election are Mark Burrill, Glynn Johnson, Jeanne McKay, and Janet Norin. Others seeking a position on the board are Steve Podhurst, and former trustee Ken Wright. These six candidates previously mentioned are running for the four-year terms. Sean McKay is running unopposed for the two year term.

1. Why are you running for village board trustee?

For 3 four-year terms:

Mark Burrill: To be involved in the community and to try and help the residents of Hampton.

Glynn Johnson: I have found out over the last year that I have served on the board; it is an opportunity and a privilege to work with a lot of great people and to make an impact on the quality of life of the present and future residents of Hampton.

Jeanne McKay: I want to continue to serve residents of Hampton as I have for the past six terms.

Janet Norin: I would like to be a village trustee, because I've found it very interesting on the board these past two years. I have learned a lot about the village and I would like to learn more as I continue to serve Hampton residents.

Steve Podhurst: I think I can make a contribution to the village board, open up lines of communication to residents, and bring some new ideas to the board.

Ken Wright: To give people a choice. My past experience on the board will be beneficial.

For 2 year term:

Sean McKay: I am interested and I thought I would give it a try.

2. How do you plan to represent the residents of Hampton?

For 3 four-year terms:

Mark Burrill: Listening to the comments, concerns, complaints and any ideas from the community.

Glynn Johnson: I feel the residents of Hampton deserve to be represented honestly, fairly equally and to the best of my ability.

Jeanne McKay: As I always have. You try to do your best for all 1600 residents.

Janet Norin: I plan to keep an open mind. I listen to those who call and give me suggestions and I try to follow up with the people I talk to.

Steve Podhurst: To the best of my ability-honestly, fairly, and openly. Also, I will make myself accessible to residents.

Ken Wright: I'll listen to the input of residents in the community and make sound business decisions in the best interest of the village residents.

For two-year term:

Sean McKay: I have not been on the board yet and I cannot answer the other questions at this time.

3. Are you planning to raise property taxes or operate under the present tax rate?

Mark Burrill: I would like to operate under the present tax rate. Nobody likes tax increases.

Glynn Johnson: I plan to hold the line on property taxes. The residents of Hampton are already burdened enough from tax increases in the last few years.

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Meet the Candidates for the School Board

By Michaela VanDieren

The candidates for the Hampton School Board responded to three questions asked by the Towne Crier. On the April 13th election, four board members will be selected for four-year terms. Incumbents seeking re-election are Frederick Husman, Joe Jordan, and write-in candidate, Donna Schaffer. Newcomers to the race are Monty Norin and Cliff Perry.

1. Why are you running for Hampton School?

Joe Jordan: I want to run for the school board because I have a deep concern for the education and well-being of my children, as well as, the children of Hampton. I see a lot of excellent things happening at the school and I want to be a part of this positive energy. We have an excellent teaching and support staff. Their motivation and love of kids clearly shows and is reflected in the desire of learning by the students. We are wrapping up the long list of life, health, and safety projects around school. These projects have made our facility a quality facility that will last well into the future. The addition of teaching aids like computers and new textbooks will ensure that Hampton students are academically competitive in high school and college.

J. Frederick Husman: There are numerous reasons. I want to be part of my children's education. Good schools are an essential part of a good community. I want my family to be part of a good community and I want to do my part to keep our community healthy.

Monty Norin: To give residents in the district more choice and open up the board to other representation.

Cliff Perry: I am a three and a half year resident of Hampton. My girls are 3-1/2 years and 10 months old and they will attend Hampton School in a few years. As a concerned citizen, I would like to be more knowledgeable about the school system and help in any way I can.

Donna Schaffer: As you can tell I am a write-in on the up-coming election for school board. I was not going to run for re-election because I had other plans in mind of doing other things. I was approached by many up standing citizens in the community asking me to please reconsider my decision and to be a write-in candidate. After much thought I decided to be a write-in. My reasoning is that I want to be able to continue the progress that is being made in the quality of Education for the students of Hampton.

2. What do you see as priorities for the Hampton School?

J. Frederick Husman: A survey of the community showed they wanted a local school. It is a high priority for me as well as the Board that our school is a well-managed asset that remains in our community. It is a priority for me as well as the Board that we continually improve learning in our school. It is a priority for me, as well as the Board, to exercise financial responsibility in the operation of the District.

Joe Jordan: We need to instill a higher level of academic expectation in our kids. This is a priority the school board, community, parents, teachers, and school administration collectively need to drive into our kids. We need a strong school board that can set high goals and expect high returns from the staff, while at the same time, support staff with the required resources and policies. Teachers must be given the right tools for their job, whether that includes computer software, maps, or a temperature controlled classroom. In order to achieve expectations in academics, we need to have a safe and nurturing environment at home and in our school. We need more parental and community involvement in the school, whether it be reading to children, helping teachers, setting school policies, and most importantly, reinforcing a "can do" attitude in our youth through words and actions. Our highest priority in

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-From Village on front page

Jeanne McKay: I never vote for a tax increase. Cities have to learn to live within a budget as you and I run our homes. We can't afford these tax increases.

Janet Norin: I would like to keep taxes low by staying within the budget and when possible to reduce taxes. I am also a property taxpayer in Hampton.

Steve Podhurst: We really don't know fully what the future holds. Until I get into the position and review the budget, operating expenses and future expenses, such as the environmental center and water tower, then, I would like to shed light on this issue (of taxes) and make the information available to all. This information needs to be accessible to myself and all other residents. I will hope to operate under the present tax rate.

Ken Wright: The residents are already overtaxed and, in addition, many have had re-assessment of property value. Village officials need to find innovative methods to generate more funds through development to offset the need to raise taxes so as not to burden residents.

4. Do you favor the concept of an environmental (interpretive) center? How will upkeep and management of it be financed?

Mark Burrill: Yes, I am in favor of the Interpretive Center. A lot of residents inquired about a center for village use. Renting out for receptions, parties, etc. could help in the upkeep.

Glynn Johnson: I do favor the concept of an interpretive center for the village of Hampton. We will receive 50% of the funding from a grant from the Illinois DNR (Dept. of Natural Resources). Also, the center can provide a large stepping stone to a community center, which many residents have indicated they want.

As far as the management and upkeep of the center, that would come under the authority of the Parks Committee. A separate line item account has already been set up for it in next year's budget.

Jeanne McKay: I am in favor of the center. TIF money would be used for the Village's matching funds portion of the grant. TIF money is benefiting everyone in the village. We're still working on funding for upkeep and management.

Janet Norin: Yes, I am in favor of the environmental center. I am hoping that it will be a self-supporting structure. We do not want to use tax money for upkeep and running it.

Steve Podhurst: I don't know all the details of the project. I've tried to find out. This is an additional reason I am running. The details need to be clearly available. How to pay for construction, operating and maintenance will be an important consideration in deciding to go ahead with the environmental center.

Ken Wright: I do not favor the environmental center at this time. The village does not have the \$250,000 in matching funds required by the grant. Funds would be better spent upgrading the water system to correct inadequate water pressure experienced by many residents.

-From School on front page Joe Jordan:

our community, not only in our school, has to be raising our youth to be moral citizens who are prepared for tomorrow's highly competitive job market and social problems. I think we can do it if we believe we can do it.

Monty Norin: Preparing the students for entering United Township High School district. They need the basics to form a firm foundation for later years of learning.

Cliff Perry: To continue to educate children at the highest level possible and to spend the people of Hampton's money wisely.

Donna Schaffer: The quality of Education, which means raising the IGAP test scores and having every child reach a higher level of thinking. I feel if you strive for the best you will get the best. Quality of Education for the students of Hampton.

3. Will the school board be able to reduce property taxes next year, keep them the same, or increase them?

J. Frederick Husman: Our main sources of income are from the Federal Government, State Government, County Government, and student fees. I don't see increased funding from the Federal or State Governments that would yield any tax relief and I don't want to increase user fees. Most of our Districts expenses are associated with the employees, their benefits, and purchased educational services, which tend to increase with inflation. I don't project any significant property tax relief due to reducing our expenses. I can promise that I will do my best to insure responsible financial management of our District. I, too, don't want my taxes rising!

Joe Jordan: The school is not raising our tax rate at which we require to run the school. In fact, the school's tax rate will go down again next year. However, since on average the assessed valuation for the Hampton area has gone up 8%, your tax bill is likely to go up. When rates stay the same or go down, as in the case of school's rate, the driver for tax bill increases lie with the higher assessed values.

Monty Norin: I am hoping to at least keep them the same if we can't reduce them.

Cliff Perry: I believe the Hampton's present board has approved a 4.7% increase for the nest school year. They can increase the rate easily if the increase is less than 5 %. I am not in favor of higher taxes. All households live under a budget and I believe the school board must also. The people I spoke with while circulating my petition, said they had a bad taste in their mouth after the last large increase. I feel any increase should be put up to the voters no matter how large or small.

Donna Schaffer: This is a very good question. We all want to be reassured that our taxes won't go up. To tell you the truth, I am not able to answer this question. Taxes are based on many things: assessed evaluation of homes, calculations and other variables. What I am sure of is, as a parent and taxpayer, it is our duty to educate the children of Hampton. They are our next generation that must be prepared to live in this ever changing world. No one wants to pay more taxes but at what price do we pay to give the children of Hampton a quality education.

Vote on April 13th



How You Can Reach Us . .

Hampton Towne Crier
P. O. Box 224
Hampton, IL 61256-0224

For Stories, Birthdays,
Announcements, etc.
Contact

Michaela VanDieren @ 755-1641

- OR -

Mike Toalson @ 755-7591

For Advertising Contact
Randy or Georgia Baldrige
496-2195

Crier Staff: Tammy Harms
Jane & Rocky Nelson
Joleen Cameron
Kris Sandberg
Terry Summers
Kay Ziegler

Publishing Deadline is the 15th of the Month !!!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on April 4, 1999. According to the Uniform Time Act of 1966, Standard Time in each time zone in the U. S. is to be advanced one hour at this time and remain in effect until the last Sunday in October.



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Jeff Mann, Hampton, screams up the river in his Bass Cat to prefish a tournament.



Two Hampton men earn top honors in the Deere-Harvester Bass Club. Mike Bert (left) won Third Place and Jeff Mann won First Place as Angler of the Year. Congratulations!

Spring Fever? Enjoy a day on the river...

As the sun peeks over the horizon, twenty plus fishermen crank up their engines to begin yet another competitive, fun-filled day on the river. What will it be today, go north or go south? Backwater or main channel? Spinnerbait or a worm? Rain-gear or suntan lotion? The day is filled with choices, but one thing is for sure, someone will catch the biggest bass of the day! Got you "hooked" yet?

Welcome to the John Deere Harvester Bass Club, a local group of fishermen (and women) who look forward to those early morning blast-offs and friendly competition. There are now over 150 members and growing. Club President Mike Bert of Hampton has announced the 1999 Tournament Season Schedule, as follows:

Tuesday Night Tournaments-No Points (open to all...)

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per person if member of club, \$25.00 per person, non-member.

Date	Location	Check-in	Weigh-in
May 18	Port Byron	4:45 PM	8:00 PM
June 1	Port Byron	4:45 PM	8:30 PM
June 15	Port Byron	4:45 PM	8:30 PM
June 29	Port Byron	4:45 PM	8:30 PM
July 13	Port Byron	4:45 PM	8:30 PM
July 27	Port Byron	4:45 PM	8:30 PM
Aug 10	Port Byron	4:45 PM	8:30 PM
Aug 24	Port Byron	4:45 PM	8:00 PM

Participants must check in by 4:45 at which partners "sign-in" and await a coin draw for blast off order. All tournaments are partner-based and are ranked by the total weight caught for the time period allowed. Entry fees are divided into cash pay-out categories and ranked from first place down. Custom plaques are given to the first three places along with a special "big fish" award.

If you can't make the Tuesday nights, you can fish the all-day Saturday tournaments for points, prize money and plaques. The points are awarded based on how you place for the day, then totaled for the season for the number one honors. After the season, the club recognizes the point winners with an impressive member banquet complete with trophies, great food, live entertainment and, of course, plenty of fish tales.

The 1998 John Deere Harvester "Angler of the Year" was Jeff Mann of Hampton, and his partner Dennis Kaiser of Lynn Center. Both

tallied enough points throughout the season to earn top honors, plus a nice plaque and team jacket. Mike Bert of Hampton and partner Mike Fuller rallied to hold down third place. Who said living near the river doesn't have its advantages? "We started out the season with a third place win and never did pull down a first place, but we did consistently catch fish during every tournament day which adds up quickly," said Mann. "It is an honor and privilege to earn this award because our club has some of the best river Bass fishermen in the Quad Cities, and we were fortunate to place high during every event," noted Mann. Mike Bert and Jeff Mann are no strangers to Tournament action. Mike fished with the pro's last year during the Bass Pro Shops Legends Tournament, while Jeff had the opportunity to fish the B.A.S.S. Top 100 Tournament which was held here on the Mississippi River for a four day shoot-out. Both men enjoyed their time with the pros. "These guys really understand time management along with lure techniques," said Mann. "We found out that our fishing habits are not much different from the pros, but experience from time on the water certainly shows."

Those interested in fishing Saturday Tournaments may contact any of the clubs officers for additional information and tournament dates. Club membership is only \$10.00 annually, plus entry fees for each tournament fished. Club meeting nights are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM, at V.F.W. hall downtown East Moline. Dues must be paid one week before the tournament day.

Officers: Mike Bert President (309) 496-9169
Dan Green Vice President (309) 799-5804
Bobby Mills Secretary (309) 792-1351

There are two "OPEN" Saturday tournaments on May 1 at Savanna (Palisades) and September 18th in Albany. These do not require club membership. "Our goal is to provide a safe day of fun and competition to anyone that likes to fish for Bass," noted Bert. "The club requires certain safety elements like life jackets and kill switches for the boat and practices catch and release for Bass that are caught," said Mike. Saturdays tournament locations can vary from Cassville, WI to New Boston, we try to offer unique areas to test each angler's ability.

So whether you're into BASSIN or not, check out the weigh-in activities or watch the morning blast off and see what you could be missing. "I'm hooked," said Jeff, "if the fish aren't biting you can still enjoy a fast boat ride along with watching sunrises and sunsets, no pagers, no phone calls! A bad day on the water is still better than a good day at the office."



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Zion's Spring Luncheon Set for April 28

Pictured above (from left to right) are Helen Graham, Betty Morgan, Melinda Loete and Erma Ziegler. They are organizers of Zion's Spring Casserole and Salad Luncheon. It will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 28, at Zion Lutheran Church, 17628 Hubbard Road, (Hampton Buff) East Moline. The proceeds will benefit Little Lambs Preschool and Zion's Organ Fund. Cake, coffee and iced tea are included in the ticket price. Tickets are \$5.00 each. They are available by calling 4962186 or at the door. Express line and carry out will be available for those on a limited lunch time. The church will receive additional funds from Aid Association for Lutherans, branch 1979 to aid Zion's causes.

Parents Pitch In

By Supt. Ron Paquette

Once a month, Richard O'Leary stops by his son's school on the way to work. The second graders love to huddle around him as he reads one of his favorite children's stories.

Cora Rivera's job makes it impossible for her to volunteer during school hours. Instead, she calls parents to tell them about special school events.

When parents get involved in their children's school, everyone wins. Plus, volunteering sends the message to kids---Education is important!

There are countless ways you can help your child's school. Here are some ideas:

- Tell students about the type of work you do
- Volunteer as a library aide
- Attend public hearings on school issues
- Share your hobbies or travels with students
- Tutor children who need extra help
- Volunteer as a room mother or father
- Go with classes on field trips
- Read your favorite children's stories to the class
- Serve on the school advisory council.
- Help in the school office by photocopying or filing
- Make school grounds more attractive.
- Help out in the computer lab.
- Donate books to the school library.
- Make costumes or bake goodies for special events.
- Help raise money for computers or other school equipment.

Hampton District #29 School Board Meeting Monday February 8, 1999

Board and Visitors: Randy Baldrige, Roger Braddy, Fred Husman, Donna Schaffer, and Dave Wright; Kathy Kraft and Joe Jordan were absent; Barb Brandt and Teri Minnaert.

Mrs. Minnert addressed the board. She stated that a tentative date of Feb 27 had been set for the Christmas party to be held at Leamans, in Geneseo at 6:00 p.m. Invitations will be sent.

Mrs. Barb Brandt, the Art teacher said she is **writing** a grant to the Illinois Art Council for an **artist in residence grant**. She plans to have a professional ceramic artist from Rock Island. The proposal is for a four week period for Jr. High with the core group being the seventh grade. The board wished Mrs.Brandt the best in obtaining this grant. Roger Braddy made a motion for the board to endorse and support this grant if it is won. Motion carried.

Minutes of Jan. 11 regular and executive sessions were approved. Bills were paid.

What's happening in the school: Dr. Paquette stated the school has **new computer in library with free direct access to the Internet through TCI**. He thanked Mike Toalson for his help in obtaining this for the school. Dr. Paquette stated that there were twenty students who received straight "A's" on their report cards. These students received a

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"Lighting the Way"

- State Education Motto

Vote For

Donna Schaffer (Write IN)

Fred Husman

Joe Jordan

For

Hampton School Board

-paid advertisement

Happenings This Month



April 1 - April Fool's Day.

April 1 - Early dismissal from school 2:00 pm.

April 2 - Good Friday.

April 2 - No School - Spring Break.

April 4 - Daylight Savings Time.
Turn clocks ahead one (1) hour.

April 4 - Easter Sunday.

April 6 - Fire Department 7pm.

April 11 - QC Botanical Center "April Showers Bring May Flowers" for children, 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Make a tie-dye bouquet and learn how the stem of a flower really works. Create a unique container to take your flower arrangement home. Workshop is free with paid admission to the center. Pre-register by calling 794-0991 for more information.

April 12 - Village Board 7pm.

April 12 - School resumes - Spring Break ends.

April 12 - School Board 7pm.

April 13 - Election Day. Village Board & School Board

April 13 - STS Testing at school.

April 13 - Fire Department 7pm.

April 15 - Income Tax Day.

April 20 - Fire Department 7pm.

April 22 - Science Fair at the school. 7:00 pm

April 26 - Village Board 7pm.

April 27 - Fire Department 7pm.

April 29 - Ladies Auxilliary Bunco.

April 30 - May 1 - Village Wide Yard Sale 8am - 4pm.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 21 - Happy Belated Birthday to Amy Weber, love your family.

April 3 - Happy Birthday to Nikki Beals.

April 4 - Happy 6th Birthday Brittany Weber, Love your family.

April 4 - Happy Birthday Myron Erickson, Love all the Nelsons.

April 5 - Happy 39th Birthday Bill Beals.

April 6 - Happy Birthday Beth Larrison, Love Mom

April 10 - Happy 68th Birthday Rocky Nelson

April 15 - Happy Anniversary John and Liz.

April 16 - Happy Birthday Gary Larrison, Love Mom

April 21 - Happy 5th Birthday Linley Erickson, Love Grandparents.

April 22 - Happy Birthday Terry Henrichs, Love Betty.

April 23 - Happy 67th Birthday Mary Jane Nelson.

April 27 - Happy Birthday Lori, Love Mom.

Hi Kids,

Come to Metrobank to open your savings account and join my Red Apple Club.

We do lots of fun things during the year like activity kits, newsletters and coloring contests. So bring in your pennies today and join the Red Apple Club.

Your friend,

Willie

Willie the Worm

P.S. Hope to see you soon!

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Newsletters

•

Coloring Contests

•

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ICC DECLASSIFIES INFORMATION THAT SHOWS GTE'S CONVERSION FROM FLAT TO USS HAS INCREASED GTE'S REVENUES BY \$34 MILLION.

SPRINGFIELD, IL - A Hearing Examiner for the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has recently declassified information that shows GTE's conversion from flat local to "per call" and "per minute" USS rates has increased GTE's revenues by \$34 million per year. GTE had claimed that the conversions from flat rate local to measured local service were revenue neutral. GTE had argued that the information which shows these conversions increased revenues should be kept secret from the public, but the Hearing Examiner did not agree.

The Commission had approved these conversions based on GTE's assurance that these changes in local service would be revenue neutral. However, customers received large increases in their local telephone bills when these conversions occurred. A group of rural GTE customers are currently involved in a complainant case against GTE before the Commission.

In recent years GTE has been shrinking the size of the local area that rural customers can call without paying "toll-like" rates. There are now over 100 GTE rural exchanges in which the local home calling area is less than 500 lines. For calls outside that small area, GTE charges the customer toll or "toll-like" rates. William Dunkel, one of the Complainants, says "when there were one-room schoolhouses these small home calling areas might have been reasonable, but now with the supermarket, department stores and consolidated school districts, rural telephone customers need a calling area comparable to the urban calling area." The average geographic area of a GTE rural exchange is only 60 square miles, whereas the average geographic area of a GTE urban exchange is 120 square miles. The complainants have shown statistically, with a 99.9% confidence interval, that this discrimination against the rural customers is not due to random chance. This discrimination in geographic size

means that even if a pharmacy is the same distance from a rural customer as an urban customer, the rural customer will generally be charged toll or "toll-like" per minute rates but the urban customer

The Complainants and the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) have jointly proposed revised EAS rates which would reduce GTE's excess revenue by \$12 million annually. The Complainants and CUB were unable to propose rates which would reduce GTE's excess revenue by the total \$34 million excess due to complex regulation limitations in that complaint case. It is not clear if the remaining \$22 million in excess revenue from these conversions will be addressed elsewhere.

The complaint case before the Commission is limited and would not provide any help to many rural customers. Even if this case is successful, rural customers who are being charged toll rates to call their local schools and other local services would continue to be charged toll rates. GTE recently introduced a 15¢ per call optional service. However, the 15¢ per call option would actually raise the bills of most customers. In addition, that 15¢ per call option is not available to the customers who are being charged toll rates to call their local schools and other local service providers.

Representative Raymond Poe has introduced House Bill 44 and Senator Larry Bomke has introduced Senate Bill 819. These bills would guarantee that all customers have the ability to call the exchanges which contain their local schools, government offices, pharmacy, department store, and medical facility at affordable local service rates. The house bill is co-sponsored by Representatives William Black, Mike Boland, Joel Brunsvold, Julie Curry, Gary Hannig, Gwenn Klingler, Phil Novak, Mary O'Brien, Arthur Tenhouse, David Winters and Larry Woolard. The senate bill is co-sponsored by Vince Demuzio, Laura Kent Donahue, Duane Noland, and Evelyn Bowles.

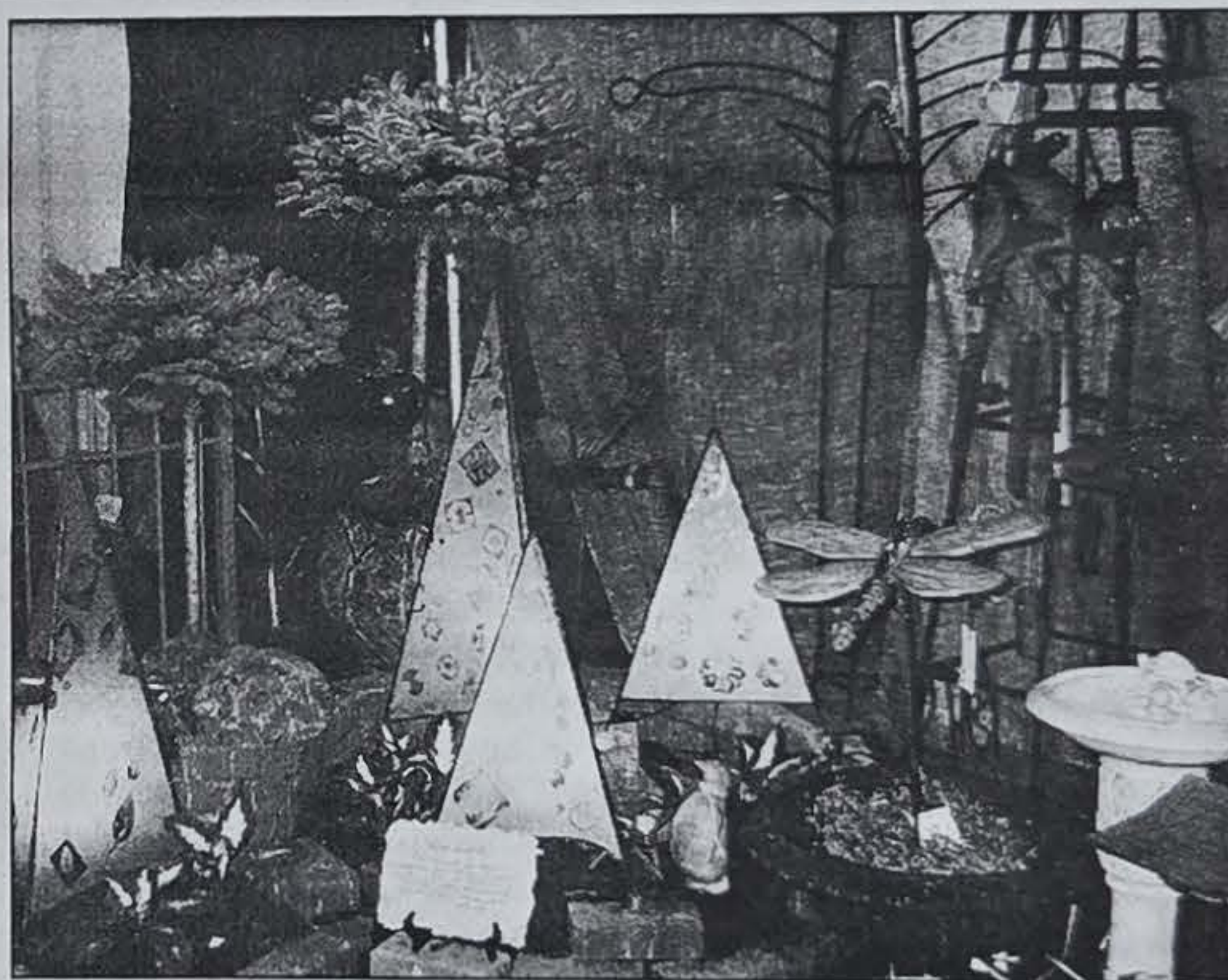
Freelance Adds Garden Art Center

By Randy Baldrige

Hampton resident Rae Benzon, owner of Freelance Landscaping and Garden Center in East Moline, has broken new ground in the competitive world of landscaping.

"Garden Art" is the hottest new division at her expanded garden center. Marketing director, Julie Gere, says, "If it's expressive and has a texture that compliments greenery, it's garden art. We feature the best and most interesting selection I've ever seen!"

Designer Deb Willaredt uses garden art in her plans. "The right touch of copper sprinklers and custom cast iron arbors are good sellers, along with other exclusive pieces commissioned by Freelance." Rae enjoys featuring local artists at her store, and is looking forward to this season, when people can discover for themselves Freelance's extensive perennial selection, along with her new line of "Garden Art." With gardening being the #1 hobby in the United States, people are delighted to discover new sources for variety and fun in their gardens.



A few of the unique garden art pieces available at Freelance Landscaping and Garden Center in East Moline owned and operated by Rae Benzon, Hampton.



Lee and Lee

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Underground Railroad Site Possibly in Hampton

By Rocky Nelson

A gentleman named Rigg, a professor at Blackhawk East College, has obtained a grant to conduct research about activities in this area of the so-called Underground Railroad, when runaway slaves were transported to freedom. We have such a site in our town. The Seranus Brettun house, now occupied by Mary Ellen McNeal has been said to be a "station" and Mr Brettun, a "conductor". Unfortunately, there is nothing but hearsay evidence, but I have found that hearsay is the rule in Underground Railroad research. Mr. Rigg is finding hard evidence almost impossible to come by. Historians don't like to accept oral history but in this case there isn't much else. People were reluctant to even mention it in letters and here and there we find tunnels, passageways, and rooms that are vestiges of the UR but even then the way they were used is largely conjecture. For a wide spread enterprise it is a remarkably well kept secret. Before the Civil War it was a Federal crime but even afterward people were reluctant to speak about it.

In the case of the Brettun house, the story goes that there was a chimney on the west wing of the house. This section was torn down when the McNeal family arrived in 1936. The chimney was a dummy and contained a periscope! Perfect for unobtrusive surveillance up and down the river. Part of this periscope was still there in 1936. Also, there seems to have been a tunnel leading from the basement to the riverbank. Perhaps the strongest evidence of a possible Underground Railroad "station" lies in the character of Brettun himself. He was from Maine and an outspoken abolitionist. Abolitionists were people who wished to abolish slavery. Never a majority they were a very noisy minority in the pre-Civil War days.

The institution of slavery was as old as America itself. By coincidence, in 1619 when the foundations for our country were laid, a Dutch ship unloaded a cargo of slaves in the Jamestown colony. During the 17th and 18th centuries there were slaves in all of the American colonies, North, as well as South. More in the South, however, where agriculture on large plantations required a great deal of manual labor. Tobacco was the biggest crop. The institution of slavery did not really flourish and most of the founders of our country felt that slavery was destined to die out. No direct mention of slavery was made in the Declaration of Independence or in the Constitution, partly because of the conviction that it would die of its own accord.

After the Revolution an event occurred which turned everything around. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, a machine that cleaned cotton of its seeds. It took a whole day to clean a pound of cotton by hand but Whitney's machine could clean 50 pounds. Where before cotton clothing had been too expensive to use on a wide scale it suddenly became the cheapest of the fabric. Mills to spin cotton into cloth sprang up everywhere. Especially, in New England in America and even more in Great Britain, where they first applied steam power to run the mills. This can be looked upon as the start of the Industrial Revolution. Unfortunately, it also made the cultivation of the plant by slaves economically important.

There is a distinct difference in how slavery was regarded after that. Since the slave was an integral part of the economy (cotton soon became the largest export) it had to be justified. Books were written and sermons preached about how it was God's will that there be black slaves, the Bible was scoured for passages that would justify it, fierce attempts were made to show that Negro people were inhuman or at best inferior. Life changed for the ordinary slave. In the 18th century, though their lives were never on a par with whites, they had some freedom of movement. They could visit slaves on the plantations. We read about how it was against the law to teach a slave to read and write. Actually those laws came in the 1830's. Before that time some slave owners taught selected slaves to read and write in order to help keep accounts on the plantation. Also, it could be useful for a house slave to be able to read and write. We can see from the laws that were passed how the slave holders paranoia gripped them more and more. There became an obsession about slave revolts. A large one occurred in 1800 near Richmond, Virginia, called Gabriel's revolt. The most famous, also in Virginia, was led by the slave preacher, Nat Turner, with 70 followers who killed 50 whites and destroyed a great deal of property. This occurred in 1831.

It was about this time that the Underground Railroad came into existence. There had always been runaways. Many blacks escaped and lived with the Seminoles in the swamps of Florida. The Dismal Swamp in Virginia was another favorite place for fugitives. It is not known how the term Underground Railroad came to be applied. The railroads were coming into prominence in this era and somehow railroad terminology came to be applied to this process of aiding

escaped slaves. Incidentally, maybe I should say that the Underground Railroad was not a subway tunnel leading to the North. In researching all this, I found an internet question-answer site where that question was asked.

Freed slaves were among the first "conductors," who guided the "passengers", to the "stations" along the "tracks." Many slaves were transported to Canada. Others escaped to the western territories or Mexico. Some blended in with the free Negroes in larger cities. Many people connected with religion were part of the network. Quakers, Methodists, and Presbyterians were notable. The African Methodist Church was founded by blacks and became very active in the UR. People took part at great risk. In 1793 a fugitive slave law was passed making it a Federal crime to assist fugitive slaves. In 1850 another one was passed providing much stiffer penalties and providing a reward for return of runaways. This created a new occupation- that of slave catcher, a profitable business. So profitable that it became almost routine to capture free Negroes and send them south into slavery.

We have said how close-mouthed UR conductors were. There is an exception. If you go east on I-80 you'll come to a town named Princeton. This was the home of Owen Lovejoy. Lovejoy, a Congregational preacher from Maine, had witnessed the shooting of his brother Elijah, who printed an abolitionist newspaper, by a mob of pro-slavery people. From that day on, he was determined to help every fugitive he could. He was elected to the Congress in 1854 and did not hide his feeling. In a famous speech in 1859 he said he aided every fugitive that came to his door. Strong words because this was a violation of Federal law. You can visit his home, if you ever go to Princeton.

Another "station" fairly close to us is the Henderson Leweling house in Salem, Iowa. In a Quaker community founded in 1837. Another Quaker "station" was the home of Levi Coffin in Fountain, Indiana. It is said to have aided 2000 fugitives. The John Rankin house in Ripley, Ohio, right on the river was another active one. Rankin kept a lighted candle in his window. Symbol for a "station". Other signs were conveyed by hanging quilts on clotheslines. The patterns conveying agreed upon messages.

We must not leave this topic without a word about Harriet Tubman, a runaway slave herself, she made 19 trips into the Southland and guided about 300 people to freedom, including her own family. At one time, there was a \$40,000 reward for her capture. In the Civil War, Tubman aided the Union army by acting as a spy. After the war, she aided the newly freed slaves and also became active in the women's movement. She died in 1913 at the age of 93. She surely is one of the most remarkable women in American history.

So, we have a possible UR site in Hampton. For my part I hope the heresay is true.

Actor Recalls Hampton Childhood

Here's an update on Hampton's thespian, Marc Nelson, in New York. "Killer Joe" continues its run, though not every performance is sold out but weekends are. Marc reports his enthusiasm is still high, even, by his calculation, he has portrayed this character through 400 performances since it started 5 years ago. The play is very wearing physically and there are 8 performances a week. To illustrate the beating the actors take, an understudy is portraying the title role this week, the regular actor having blown a knee out in the fight scene. Marc, himself, is nursing an 8-stitch gash on the arm, also a legacy of the fight scene. The woman who took Amanda Plummer's role has quit because of the wear and tear on her body. Who said theater is an easy way to make a living!

Marc writes his grandmother, Mary Ellen McNeal, regularly. The following is an excerpt from a February 11 letter where he expresses his feelings about his old home town: "...I sure had a lot of fun as a kid. I have Maw and Paw, Aunt Bev and Uncle Jack, Marshall and Bobbi, and Grandpa and yourself (Mary Ellen McNeal) to thank for that. All of you together formed a circle within the Village that made us safe and happy. When I was depressed and in therapy, after a few months of searching for childhood keys and events, my therapist said he had never heard of such a remarkably happy childhood and wanted to know where Hampton was. He put an idea forth which was, in short, that leaving Hampton was like being cast out of Eden in a way (I didn't say my shrink wasn't Loony Tunes. He did have a point, however). I've been some wondrous and exciting places now and had an opportunity to immerse myself in big

See Marc Nelson Page 11-

Alexia Wins Title of Miss Petite Rapid City, SD

On Sunday Feb. 21st, Alexia Vandersnick, won the title of Miss Petite Rapids City, South Dakota. Alexia is the daughter of Brenda and Mark Vandersnick of Rapids City and the granddaughter of Pat and Joe Portillo of Hampton. Also, she is the niece of Mali and Tom Rodgers of East Moline.

Ages 5-7 compete for this title. Contestants are scored in panel interviews and stage presence. During her reign, Alexia will represent the Rapid City Pageant at various functions and her calendar will include attending the Miss South Dakota Pageant in June. Alexia, a cute and happy girl, was the only contestant not wearing make-up. Her friendly attitude impressed the judges. Congratulations, Alexia!



Alexia Vandersnick, granddaughter of Joe and Pat Portillo of Hampton, won the title of Miss Petite Rapid City, South Dakota.

*Thanks to all the contributors
for this issue of
the Towne Crier*

* * * * *

*Happy Easter-
The Towne Crier Staff*

Jammin' With Jane

By Jane Nelson

This month we start with one of our family's big holidays--Easter. This year our son-in-law Myron Erickson, Mindy's husband, also, has his birthday. We are going to the Morton Arboretum for lunch at 2:30. I wonder what we will do next year when it will be my 68th birthday on Easter. Maybe it will be back to Morton Arboretum.

We were in Chicago for Valentine's Day this year. Mindy had a tea for the children that go to the Waldorf school with Linley. It was a lovely tea with a mix of children and adults. Mindy did all the refreshments by herself. She gave me all of the recipes. You could do it just as well for Easter with a few changes. I think a tea for Easter would be quite nice, of course, you know I drink tea and not coffee, so I'm rather partial to tea parties.

One treat at the tea party was scones, one of my favorite foods. This recipe came from a cookbook "From Chawton to Chicago" the Tea Book, the Illinois-Indiana Region of the Jane Austin Society of North America. This recipe was submitted to the cookbook by Mindy and is called.

Melinda's Tea Scones

3c sifted flour
2 1/2t baking powder
1/2c sugar
1/2t baking soda
1t salt
3/4c butter
3/4c dried fruit (raisins, currents, apricots, cherries, cranberries or blueberries) or you could use a mixture
1c buttermilk
1/4c light cream

Combine dry ingredients and cut in butter with a pastry blender or two knives until mixture resembles coarse meal. Add dried fruit. Gradually add the buttermilk and mix until dough clings together. Turn dough onto lightly floured board and pat or roll into 1/2 in. round. Cut scones w/ 2 in. biscuit cutter or a egg, bunny or Easter shape. Place them on buttered bakery sheet, brush tops of scones with cream and bake 15 min at 450 degrees.

This recipe is from is from Better Homes and Gardens New Jr. Cookbook 1997 and Mindy called it Linley's Eat Your Heart Out Cookies.

Linley's Eat Your Heart Out Cookies

1c semisweet (white) chocolate pieces
1/4c lit colored corn syrup

2T butter or margarine

3c crisp rice cereal

Line cookie sheet with waxed paper. Grease paper with butter.

Put the chocolate pieces, corn syrup and 2T butter in a saucepan. Put pan on stove on low. Cook until it melts stirring with a wooden spoon. Remove from heat. Add chips and stir until they melt. Add cereal and stir. Turn out onto cookie sheet 12x16. Chill 20 min. Cut into shapes--egg would be nice and decorate with different colored frosting. You could use chips or candy melt

The best thing I thought at the tea was a fruit bread called: Barrowdale Tea Bread. This rich fruit bread is traditionally served as part of the famous Lakeland farmhouse tea. When Beatrix (Potter) married Willie Heelis and was living at Castle Cottage, she wrote a friend. "I can't do much entertaining at the farm with farm servants, but we can stand a good farmhouse tea. "Who needs more?" The fruit for this loaf needs to be soaked in tea. Of course, the quote and recipe came from "Beatrix Potter" Country Cooking which make this even better for Easter since this is the creator of Peter Rabbit. The author of the book is Sara Paston-Williams.

Barrowdale Tea Bread

3c mixed currents, raisins, sultanas
1 1/4c strong tea
3/4 c soft brown sugar
1 large egg well beaten
2T butter or margarine melted
1 3/4 plain flour
1/2t baking soda

Soak the fruit overnight in the tea in a large mixing bowl.

Pre heat the oven to 350 degrees

Stir into the soaked fruit: the sugar, the egg and the melted fat. Sieve the flour, and the baking soda into the mixture and mix well. Spoon into a lightly greased 9x5 loaf pan. Bake in a moderate oven 1/4 to 1 1/2 hr. or until firm to the touch. Leave in pan for about 5 min, then turn out on a wire rack. Serve sliced and provide varies butters so it can be buttered generously. Makes a 2 LB loaf.

Mindy made several kinds of flavored butters for the tea bread and the scones. She, also, made tea sandwiches of chicken salad, chutney and cucumbers and cream cheese. She made several kinds of cookies and a brown sugar angel food cake. You could choose your favorite cookie. I would make meringues, sugar cookies cut in Easter shapes and some lemon bars. I think that would give you a wonderful Easter tea. Lemonade would, also, go well with this. You could make a few Hot Cross buns and have them on Good Friday.

We will be back I hope next month, with Mother's Day ideas or something good for Spring which should be in full bloom by May.

Village Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 1999

Meeting called to order by Village President, Scott Newberg. Trustees Carmack, McKay, Johnson, Norin, Garrison, and Burrill present. Pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the February 8, 1999 meeting were presented for approval. Motion by Trustee McKay, second by Trustee Norin to approve and accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 31, 1999 was presented for approval. Motion by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Norin to approve and accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

The ordinance entitled 'An Ordinance Amending the Hampton Village Code by the Addition of Article 7 Title 2 Establishing Standards for the Construction of Facilities on the Public Rights-of Way' was presented for approval. Motion by Trustee McKay, second by Trustee Johnson to waive the three readings. Motion carried by voice vote. Motion by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee McKay to approve and adopt the Ordinance entitled 'An Ordinance Amending the Hampton Village Code by the Addition of Article 7 Title 2 Establishing Standards for the Construction of Facilities on the Public Rights-of Way'. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Johnson to adopt the Resolution for DOT for previous engineering on the Hampton River Park parking lot. This is for Motor Fuel Tax monies.

The Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for the expenditure of \$7,300.00 for 6th Ave. and 6th St. was presented. Motion by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Norin to adopt the Resolution. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Motion by Trustee Johnson, second by Trustee McKay to approve the Motor Fuel Tax project. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Dan Solchenberger of Ament Engineering was present. He provided the Board members with a report on the water tower project. A Public Works committee meeting to discuss the water tower construction is scheduled for March 4, 1999 at 6:30 P.M.

Solchenberger will provide the information to Attorney Lee for the vacating of N. 1st Avenue in regards to the marina project.

Solchenberger has been reviewing the construction plans for Orchard Park 2 Subdivision. He had several concerns in regards to utility easements, the location of sewer lift station, ponding next to the adjacent property owner, hydrants, lot measurements, curb stops and if bond had been posted for construction. Developer Tom Dalton was present and stated that he felt the TIF #3 agreement should be satisfactory rather than a bond being posted. Mike Zukowski, Landmark Engineering, the engineers for the Orchard Park Subdivision 2, was present and stated they will work with Solchenberger of Ament to resolve all issues.

Fire Chief Kevin Irby was present. The Department is in need of updated Fire Service Training manuals (IFSTA). It was motioned by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Johnson to purchase the manuals at a cost not to exceed \$700.00. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Carmack that the Fire Department purchase a VCR at a cost not to exceed \$250.00. Motion carried by voice vote.

Trustee Garrison stated the Fire Department is owed \$153.38 from the auction proceeds.

The Park Committee will meet on March 10, 1999, at 7:30 P.M. They will discuss the restrictions for the green space that Developer Dalton would like. This is the green space designated in Orchard Park 2.

The Street Committee will also meet March 10, 1999 at 7:30 P.M.

Board members had met with BMG Associates for fund raising for the proposed Interpretive Center in the Hampton Riverfront Park. It was then motioned by Trustee McKay, second by Trustee Carmack to hire BMG Associates to assist in fund raising for the building. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Norin to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.

March 11, 1999

Meeting called to order by Village President, Scott Newberg. Trustees Burrill, Garrison, Norin, Johnson, and Carmack present. Trustee McKay absent. Pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the February 22, 1999 meeting were presented for approval. Motion by Trustee Johnson, second by Trustee Norin to approve and accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

General Fund bills in the amount of \$13,093.15 were presented for payment approval. Changes within the General Fund accounts are as follows: The Police Fund had additions of \$7.80 for building door repairs and \$46.69 for pop, making their total \$2,439.25. The \$7.80 was deducted from the Street Fund making their balance \$874.85, and the \$46.69 was deducted from the Administration Fund, making their balance \$2,973.35. It was then motioned by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Burrill to approve payment of General Fund bills. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Public Works Fund bills in the amount of \$2,879.30 were presented for payment approval. Motion by Trustee Johnson, second by Trustee Norin to approve payment of the Public Works Fund bills. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

TIF No. 3 bill in the amount of \$1,840.00 was presented for payment approval. Motion by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Johnson to approve payment of the TIF No. 3 Fund bill. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ton Dalton, Ruhl & Ruhl, was present to discuss the proposed project for the property located on State Avenue where the restaurant burned down. As this is located in TIF No. 1, there are only 12 years remaining in the life of that TIF. After some discussion, it was decided a meeting should be arranged with the Board, Dalton, and Economic Development Corp.

Discussion on the Orchard Park No. 2 Subdivision. Doug Hinkle of Landmark Engineering was present, and Dan Solchenberger of Ament Engineering was present. Hinkle stated that Mayor Newberg had signed the sewer permit for the EPA permit. The utility easements were discussed for the sanitary sewer. The west side of lots 16 through 25, 25 ft. from front of lots on 8th Ave.; utility easement to drainage easement Lots 4, 5, 21, and 22; revise drainage and sewer on Lot 25 to include in high water level, detention basin; ponding water Lots 13, 14, and 17 of Phase #1. Attorney Lee stated the trespass of water must be avoided as that is against the law. Dalton will attempt to get a drainage easement from Lot 17. The sewer lift station will have an erosion control blanket, with an agreement signed until grass takes hold. Solchenberger recommended a maintenance bond for a five year period to cover the lift station slope and valves, and the 3 ponding areas. Attorney Lee will draft the Agreement. The water valves for the individual lots be uniform; one foot inside the ROW, between the curb and ROW.

Trustee Johnson stated there will be a Public Works committee meeting at 6:00 P.M. on March 17th. Ament will be present with figures for the EPA loan we are seeking to obtain from the EPA for the water tower construction.

Discussed the necessity of capping the end of the sanitary sewer on the north end of 1st Avenue before that portion of the street is vacated. Ament will provide a drawing.

The City of Silvis is asking for an increase in pay for the building inspector. Comparisons will be done.

The City of Silvis has advised the Village they need to update their dispatching equipment to comply with Y2K. They stated if they do not get the grant they have applied for, Hampton's cost will be \$11,000.00 and if the grant is obtained Hampton's cost will be \$4,000.00.

Twin Rivers Cooperative parish (Methodist Church) has provided the Village with an agreement in regards to the parking. It will provide 14 off street parking spaces. It was then motioned by Trustee Garrison, second by Trustee Johnson to enter into the agreement with Twin Rivers Cooperative parish. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The final payment request from Valley Construction for the 10th Street construction in the amount of \$47,738.57 was presented for payment approval. Motion by Trustee Carmack, second by Trustee Johnson to approve payment. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Trustee Carmack stated there will be a Street Committee meeting at 6:00 P.M. on March 30th.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Trustee Johnson, second by Trustee Burrill to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss contractual arrangements. Motion carried by voice vote.

Reprinted from the official approved minutes of the Village Board.



The Rock River Striders, a Quad-Cities walking and running club, made their first charitable cash donation. Pictured from left to right are Mary Milton, Rick River Strider Treasurer; Sue Brockway, Family Resources, Executive Director, Davenport; Pastor P.J., Christian Family Services, Rock Island; and George Atkinson, Chairman of Rock River Striders. Milton and Atkinson of the Rock River Striders are presenting checks of \$100 to each of the representatives of two worthy causes, Family Resources and Christian Family Services.

Rock River Striders Club Plans Run in Hampton

By Michaela VanDieren

Rock River Striders Club, a new running and walking club in the QCA, is promoting family-oriented activities. The second race they plan this spring will be held in Hampton on June 5 with an evening 5K run and walk at 7:00 p.m. Also, during the evening a separate kid's race will be conducted. There will be more information in the next issue of the Crier on this June Bug Jog in Hampton. You may also contact George Atkinson on Hubbard Road, 496-2703. The club will be seeking help with water sprinklers and water tables. The run will not cross the highway.

The Rock River Striders are committed to going that "extra mile" providing information for walkers and runners of all abilities. They provide events that further fitness and health, as well as, provide a calendar of social events to be enjoyed by the whole family. The monthly meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Charlie's Pizza, 1407-30th St, Rock Island. Everyone is welcome.

Their monthly newsletter lists area races, social activities, and fun fund-raisers like the yard sale planned for June 2. They also support charitable organizations. The group has adopted two shelters in the area and they will donate a percentage of race proceeds to them. Family Resource, Davenport and Christian Family Services, Rock Island recently each received checks for one hundred dollars (see photo). The money was raised at a February Bake Sale at National City Bank in Rock Island. In March, the group collected T-shirts, caps, gloves and shoes for boys age 13-18 at Arrowhead Ranch. Consider joining the Rock River Striders!

Teams Begin Organizing for Relay for Life

By Terrie Johnson

Very few people have not known someone who has had cancer, whether a victim or a survivor. To honor a memory or celebrate with a survivor, Hampton residents are encouraged to form teams and join in the Relay for Life.

This all-night event will take place from 6 p.m. Friday, August 13th, until noon Saturday. This year, for the first time, the event will be split between the Augustana College campus and the Blackhawk College campus. Each location will hold the exact same ceremony, simultaneously.

Teams of 8 to 12 people maintain the pace around the track raising money for cancer research. Participants may walk or jog. Two lanes will be available for serious runners.

The first lap at 6:15 p.m. is the Survivor's Lap. All survivors are encouraged to become involved. You do not need to be a team member to do the Survivor's lap and there is no cost. Last year was the first time I participated in the Survivor's Lap, and it was a deeply moving feeling.

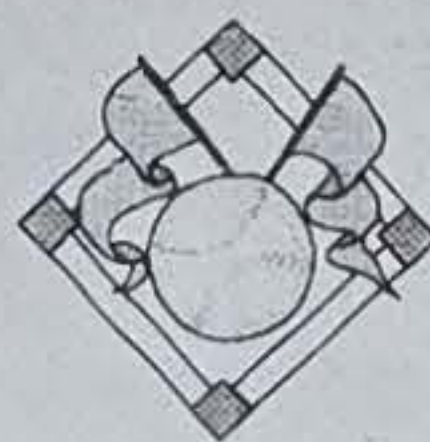
At 9 p.m. there is a luminary candlelight ceremony. This is a short service in honor and in memory of those who have experienced cancer. The luminaries can be purchased for \$5.00. The names of all those remembered or honored will be read during the service.

The Relay for Life is more than a fund raising event. People bring food, camp-out and have an altogether good time. There are many campsites available at each campus. They are selected by the team captain on a first registered basis. It is important to pay the \$25.00 registration fee, as soon as possible, to get your campsite choice.

Cancer has affected almost all of us, somehow. The Relay for Life is very important in that it unites all victims of cancer, survivors, families and friends. Your participation is very much needed and encouraged. We should all work together to try to win this battle against cancer. If you would like any information about the Relay for Life, please call Terrie Johnson at 496-9865 or the American Cancer Society at 794-0601.

-From Marc Nelson Page 8

city life on both sides of the Atlantic. I still call Hampton home, although, I haven't lived there for over 20 years. It's some living you folks do out there. Many people never know the peacefulness of that spot where the river starts to run west."



If you missed HYC softball sign-up, pick-up an application at Porter's. Don't wait until it's too late!

-From School Board from Page 4

free ice cream cone courtesy of Porter's Village Rx. Dr. Paquette stated there were **27 Jr. High students who were on the Honor Roll or Honorable Mention**. On Friday, February 5, these students went skiing at Snowstar. This recognition award came courtesy of River Cities rotary and PTA. Dr. Paquette noted that after checking the report cards, there were only two students who received a "D" and one student who received an "F." The **8th grade class** is planning their **trip to St. Louis** and they are busy fund raising for it. Dr. Paquette received a letter from Charles Given, regarding the class action on **Asbestos Recovery Litigation stating our school's claim for \$66,700** was recommended to the Federal Court for approval. If this is approved the school would receive a pro-rated share. Dr. Paquette recommended that the school board ask the State of Illinois to waive March 1st, Casimer Pulaski Day and March 26th Teacher In-service day to be used for student attendance days. Motion made and approved to change the school calendar.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Committee received three proposals for telephone equipment. Also, they discussed the gym floor insignia. The board approved recommendation to replace phone system with Panasonic from Tri-City Electric at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

Personnel: The committee recommended job descriptions for the school nurse and school treasurer. Motion made and approved.

Policy: Recommended detention policy change-after 4th detention will have an in-school suspension and be referred to SAP team. Motion passed.

Special Committees: Roger Braddy and Fred Husman attended the School Law Conference at the Hamburger University, McDonald's Office, Oak Brook, IL on Jan. 30. They recommended it for all board members and they would like to see some teachers attend next year. Old and new business-

A. Employ School Nurse: No more applications received after re-advertised. Jennifer Jacobs was approved for employment for 25 hours per week at \$15.00 per hour, for 70 days this year. The board will budget for nurse next year.

B. Supt. Evaluation: Wright set an executive board meeting for Feb. 26 at 5:00 p.m. to go over teacher surveys.

C. Appoint Gorenz and Associates as auditors for '99-'00 for a fee not to exceed \$3795

D. Appoint Ron Paquette as Ethics Officer for the board
Adjourned 10:15 p.m.

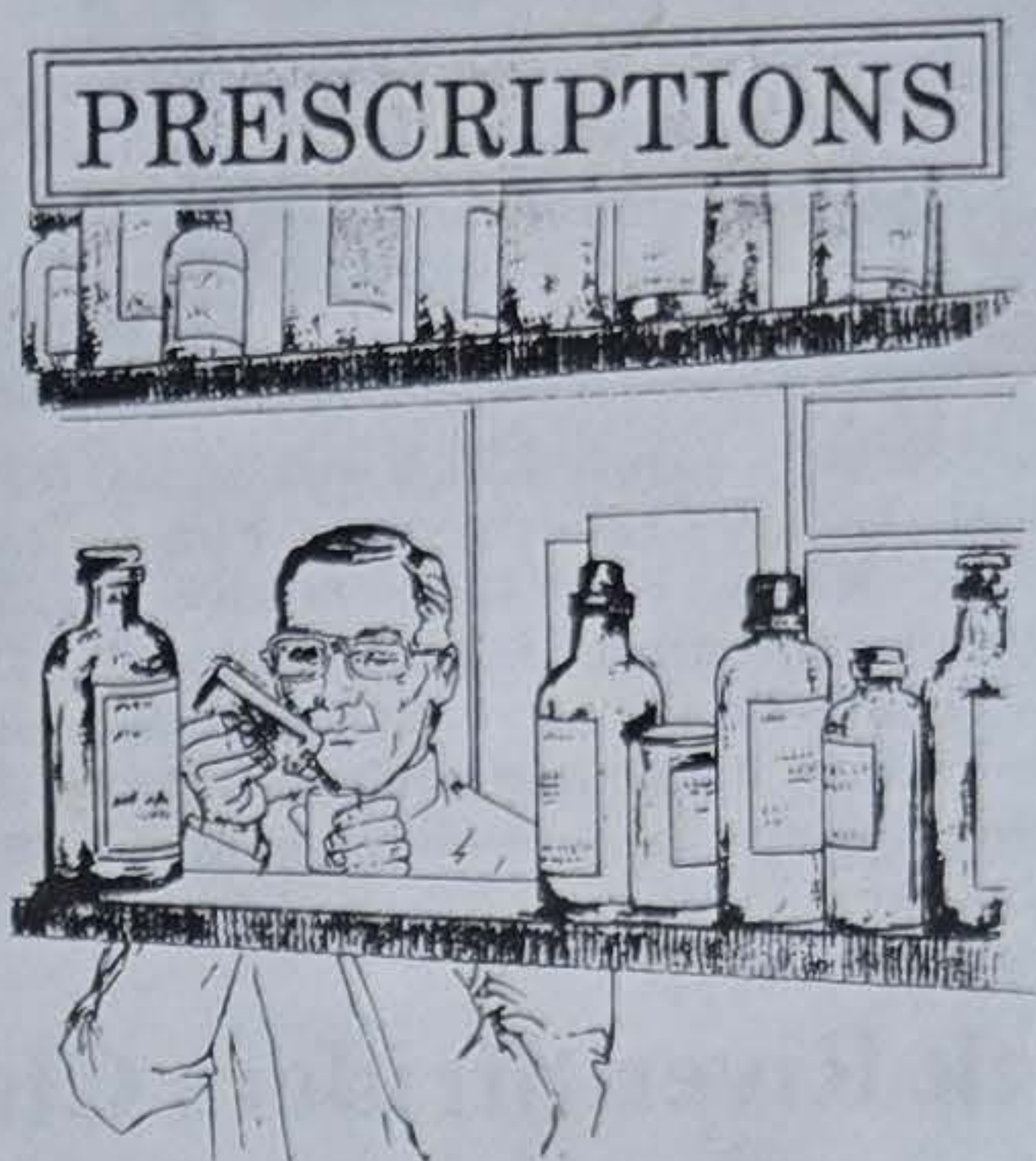
-Taken from official minutes of the board by Michaela VanDieren

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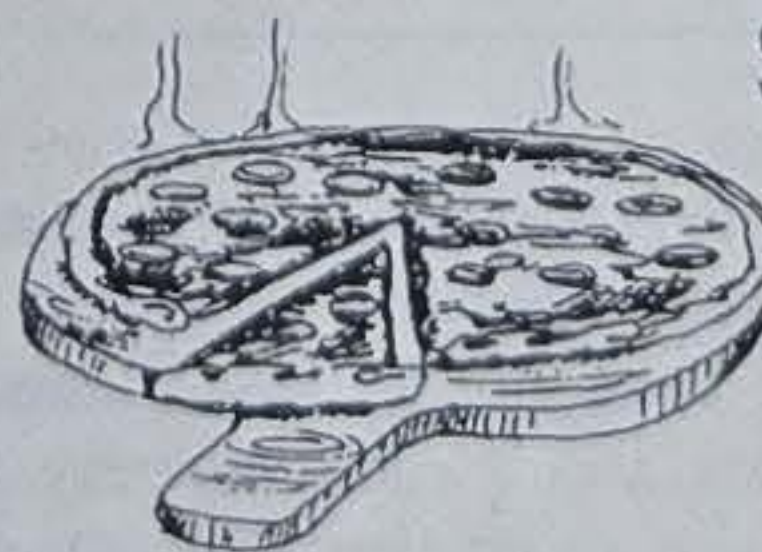
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