



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Illinois Valley Garden Club members Kathy Lombardo (left) and Jeannette Rogers displayed their 2017 photo contest during the Earth Day event at Jubilee Park April 22.

SAFETY ... Continued from A-1

Other pending developments include a crime research team and a school communications program.

Evans said, “We’re not vigilantes and we’re not law enforcement. Our group started from a point of frustration and we’ve proven our patrols are effective.”

Several groups are already well established including the Ken Rose, Idlewild, and Hanby subdivisions; Old Stage and River streets; and the communities of Selma, Takilma and O’Brien. In addition, many churches and businesses sent representatives to the organizational meeting.

During the meeting, people shared why they were interested in the neighborhood watch effort, including two residents who have already experienced home invasions.

Hoke pointed out that property crime and home invasions are on the

rise.

While Hoke stated at the outset that the meeting was not about the levy or politics, more than one participant expressed sentiments to the effect that those who oppose the safety levy should be more proactive in volunteering their time for the watch groups.

If the latest Public Safety Levy does not pass, 17 sheriff’s office employees will be laid off beginning May 31, including the entire patrol division covering all crimes. If voters approve the levy, those layoffs won’t be necessary.

Measure 17-80 asks for a rate of 93 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value to support the Adult Jail and Juvenile Detention Center for five years.

For a home with the median assessed value of \$154,440 the cost would be less than \$12 a month or 40 cents a day.

That rate will effectively slip to 80 cents per \$1,000 almost immediately because a 1999

construction bond to build the Josephine County Adult Jail will be paid off during this fiscal year.

State officials have cautioned that if the levy fails, the state won’t be filling the gap in services.

Oregon State Police (OSP) increased its staffing in 2012 when a failed levy led to budget cuts that forced deep layoffs at the sheriff’s office. OSP added 10 troopers to its Grants Pass patrol office in the last five years, but the agency says it has no plans to add more.

OSP spokesman Capt. Bill Fugate stated, “If the public safety levy should fail, the Oregon State Police will not assume additional duties in Josephine County.”

A regularly scheduled Neighborhood Watch meeting takes place at Wild River every Monday from 5 to 6 p.m. Guenter Ambron coordinates that group as well as 2-way radio practice sessions. He can be reached at ivwatch541@gmail.com or 541-415-1929.

LEVY ... Continued from A-1

And when she was asked why it was so important to continue the levy, Lindquist replied, “The money will go to maintaining the increased staff level and hours. It will maintain the shelter equipment. It continues funding for the veterinary expenses. We also keep funds for emergency situations, like the Kandi Crow animal abuse case, which cost the shelter over \$300,000 to rescue miniature horses, dogs and cats.”

She added that they have a new program called “Barn Buddies” which is a new program to find homes for unsocial cats.

In conclusion, Lindquist wanted to assure that there is an advisory committee to make sure the funds are only used for animal protection (the animal shelter and animal control). The committee is made up of seven committed members of the JoCo community.

BUILDING ... Continued from A-1

The high-exposure office building has off-street parking, limited landscaping, new roof and HVAC system, a kitchen, three restrooms and storage rooms.”

Hare said that one of the biggest problems is the more than \$30,000 it costs annually to maintain the building. “CJ has plenty of places to meet; we are blessed to have them.”

But Hare isn’t the only one talking about the proposed sale. It seems that everyone has an opinion about the building. Valley resident Pat Rorden showed concern for not just the senior meal program, but the loss of a disaster center, generator and other high-value devices. “This would have some devastating impacts on the residents,” Rorden said.

On the other hand, Hare seems to feel that any items of significance could be transferred to the city or Illinois Valley Fire Protection District.

Hare also feels that the sale would have a positive effect by keeping the money from the sale in the Valley. “Our interest is to reinvest in the Valley,” he said, noting that, “The industrial park at the I.V. Airport has a fire suppression reservoir that needs help.” According to him, the current reservoir won’t hold water.

During the Monday, May 8, Cave Junction City Council meeting the topic arose with some supporting an urgent reaction. City resident John Gardiner expressed the importance of the building and urged the city to schedule a meeting quickly. Councilor Lindsey Gillette, along with Mayor Daniel Dalgowski, echoed Gardiner’s concerns.

Anyone interested in touring the facility or making an offer to purchase should contact Mike Watson at 541-474-5226 or mwatson@co.josephine.or.us.

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Make a Difference! Volunteer.

Asante Hospice Volunteer Program welcomes both new and experienced hospice volunteers to an “Introduction to Volunteering for Asante Hospice”
Thursday, May 18, 2017 2 to 4 p.m.
Asante Center for Outpatient Health, Room 5
Asante Three Rivers campus
Please call (541) 789-6859 to let us know you will be attending.

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