ITHACA

Business owner finds dead pigs in dumpster

By Lisa Yanick-Jonaitis
ljonaitis@michigannewspapers.com
@lisayj_msun on Twitter

An Ithaca business owner taking trash to his dumpster Tuesday found more than a dozen dead pigs dumped inside, some surgically cut open with organs missing.

The find spurred investigations by both the Gratiot County Sheriff’s Office and an agent from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, who will test the pigs for disease as police try to find the culprit or culprits.

A man was bringing garbage to the dumpster at his office in Ithaca’s industrial park and when he looked inside he saw what turned out to be 16 small dead pigs, said Sheriff Doug Wright.

Each of the pigs was between two and two-and-a-half feet long; two or three were in industrial gray garbage bags and each of the 16 was wrapped in medical office paper, similar to what would be on an examination table, Wright said.

As police removed the pigs, they found that 12 had been dissected with a surgical tool like a scalpel and organs including hearts and lungs had been removed.

Police also found medical grade surgical masks, rubber gloves and scalps in the dumpster, Wright said.

Initially the area was cordoned off and the Department of Agriculture was called because of the possibility of environmental contamination. An agent from that department investigated the scene then took the dead pigs in to test them for disease.

Meanwhile police are keeping an open mind to possible motives for the illegal dumping and also for dissecting the pigs, but their initial theory is that they appear to be part of a medical or science operation, Wright said.

PIGS » PAGE 2
The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral great grandson; and a sister Fern Race of Ithaca.

Her children, Diane Clark of Elwell, Janet Clark of Ruedger, Ida & Jim Hall; many grandchildren; and a stepson Donald McGill, 2 grandsons; and a great grandson.

Golda is survived by her parents, stepson Donald McGill, 2 grandsons; many grandchildren; and a great grandson.

Age 54; of St. Louis, MI; was well loved by family and friends. He loved his dogs (especially Bear and Cara) and his garden.