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Council discusses Willdon Building, intersection cleanup

A meeting Monday may determine if the Willdon Building has a new owner.

A principle in an East Coast-based company hopes to meet with city and state officials then, said Mayor Chalmers Flitt at Tuesday's Hoopston City Council meeting.

The Omega Company works with local and township governments to help implement mandates from the federal government, providing continuity between the government, said Alderman Bill Goodwin, city finance committee chairman.

The company would like to open a main office in Chi-

cago; Hoopston would be used to cover a six-county downstate area, Goodwin said adding company officials have talked about hiring hundreds of people. "It's something you want to believe but you're afraid to believe," he said.

In unrelated discussion, city attorney Bill Nelson said cleanup of the former Beer Trailer Park at Rtes. 1 and 9 is stalled while a new executor is appointed for Ora J. Baer's estate. A previous executor died, leaving no one to pay bills. "There's money to pay the bills, there's money to pay for cleanup. The problem is there's nobody authorized to pay the bills," Nelson said.

Health department offers flu shots to those 50 years and up

In keeping with directives from the Department of Public Health and Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, the Vermilion County Health Department is offering flu immunizations to individuals age 50 and up. "Until now we have provided flu shots only to those Vermilion County residents considered to be most at risk from influenza," said Community Health Services Director Lynn Galloway. She added, "Some of our vaccine has been re-allocated allowing us the opportunity to provide immunizations to those who are age 50 and up."

Flu shots will be available on a walk-in basis at the Danville facility, 200 South College Street, during regular hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30), until further notice. Cost is \$13. In addition, Galloway said, the health department has extended its contract with the State of Illinois through the end of February. "This will allow us to provide flu shots to state employees here in Vermilion County," she said.

A shortage of vaccine last fall forced health departments across the nation to limit shots to those con-

sidered to be most vulnerable to flu illness. Galloway said, "Certainly we are pleased to have had sufficient vaccine to immunize our most at risk population," adding, "And now we have the opportunity to protect an even larger portion of the population." As of this week, a directive from the Governor's office is encouraging those health departments in Illinois with adequate supplies of vaccine to offer flu shots to additional groups beyond high risk, including people age 50 and older and those who are potentially in close contact with high risk individuals.

The Illinois Department of Public Health encourages the following to seek flu immunization: children 6 months - 23 months; people age 50 and older; anyone age 2 years - 64 years with medical conditions; pregnant women; those living in long term care facilities; children ages 6 months - age 18 on long-term aspirin therapy; household contacts of individuals in high risk groups; health care workers providing direct patient care; household contacts of See FLU on other side

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and on the Internet at www.justthefacts.net

Full retirement age necessary to determine amount of Social Security benefits to be paid

By Keith Strimmoen

Social Security District Manager in Danville, IL

Do you know what your "full retirement" age is for Social Security? And do you know what retiring earlier than your full retirement age might mean in actual dollars and cents?

Unfortunately, findings from the 2004 Retirement Confidence Survey show that most people do not know that the age for receiving full benefits is gradually rising from 65 to 67. This also means most folks do not know how that change could affect their retirement planning. So here is some truly vital information that all Americans should be aware of...whether they are one year or 20 years away from retirement.

In 1983, Congress made changes designed to strengthen the long-term financial health of the Social Security system. One of those changes was to gradually increase the full retirement age, beginning in 2003. At that time, the full retirement age for workers born in 1933 became 65 years and two months. The age for receiving full Social Security retirement benefits will continue to rise until, in 2027, when it reaches 67 for those born in 1960 or later. Workers can still retire as early as age 62 and collect a reduced benefit.

If you were born in 1940 and are planning to retire in 2005, your full retirement age will be 65 years and six months. But what does the change actually mean in terms of benefit payments? There is a formula that you could use to figure out the difference between retiring at age 64 or age 65 or age 63 and 6 months—but it can be time-consuming and require several computations.

Luckily, Social Security has a convenient chart that you can use to get the same information at a quick glance. For example, if you were born in 1940, the

Full continued from other side

children younger than 6 months; out-of-home caregivers.

Galloway said, "Anyone who has questions about whether they should seek a flu shot can call me at (217) 431-2662, or stop by the health department."

full retirement age is 65 years and 6 months; and the reductions for retiring any earlier are:

At Age	Worker's Full Retirement Benefit is Reduced to—
62	77.5%
62 + 6 months	80.0
63	83.3
63 + 6 months	86.7
64	90.0
64 + 6 months	93.3
65	96.7
65 + 1 month	97.2
65 + 2 months	97.8
65 + 3 months	98.3
65 + 4 months	98.9
65 + 5 months	99.4
65 + 6 months	100.0

beginning to plan for their retirement years. These tables can help you find your full retirement age and evaluate the financial pros and cons for you and your family of retiring early or waiting until you reach full retirement age. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/retirechart.htm.

Obituaries

BOOHER - Larry Lee Booher, 69, of Heming died at 2 a.m. Monday, Jan. 5, 2003 at home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Sunset Funeral Homes and Cremation Center, Danville. Burial with military rites will be in Danville National Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour before services Friday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Carle Hospice or a charity of the donor's choice.

MILLER - Neltie Maxine Miller, 97, a long-time resident of Champaign and Mahomet, died at 11:33 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31, 2004 at her Mahomet home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation.

Mrs. Miller taught music classes in Hooperston before her marriage.

Classifieds

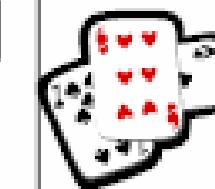
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For current weather conditions, call Hooperston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.