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Council approves revolving loan for Haga's Party Options

A Hoopeston business is expanding, thanks to help from the city's revolving loan fund.

Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, recommended at Tuesday night's Hoopeston City Council meeting that Haga's Party Options receive up to \$40,000 from the revolving loan fund.

Currently, Goodwine said, only \$27,000 is available in the fund. That amount will be repaid at \$407.50 for 84 months at seven percent. If any payment is late, the interest rate will be 7.25 percent for the remainder of the term.

Owner Elsie Haga of Alvin told the council that the loan will help the expansion of the business, which opened approximately two years ago.

Haga's is moving from 210 N. Market to 208 N. Market, the former Huckleby's Auction building. The new location offers more space for storing supplies and decorations for parties, weddings and other events but renovating the structure has cut into funds that would have been used for inventory, Haga said.

Currently most business is done on the internet but the store is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday

through Saturday. Haga said she plans to have some evening hours and also improve local sales.

According to financial information provided to the city, last year, the store had nearly \$250,000 in sales, Goodwine said.

The new store is expected to be open in about two weeks, Haga said.

Alderwoman Gail Lane voted present on the issue and Alderman Jerry Yonkers voted against approving the loan.

In unrelated business, the council:

- tabled until next meeting an announcement that the former Baer's Trailer Park property will be put up for bid. A legal description of the property is needed before action can be taken.
- tabled naming a zoning administrator/building inspector. The council approved advertising the position. Two candidates are interested and "we may not get others but at least everybody has a chance (to apply)," Goodwine said.
- learned the swimming pool is open from 5-6 p.m. for adult swims. The pool closed to others on Aug.

Rossville committee seeks veterans' names, plans fundraiser

ROSSVILLE—The Veterans Memorial Committee of American Legion Post 733 of Rossville is updating the names of veterans who served on active duty and lived in Ross or South Ross townships either before or after active duty.

Veterans whose names are on the current me-

Police News



A woman reported Monday that someone took her purse from the 800 block of East Seminary. The purse contained important papers and money.

morial need not be reported. For new additions, names and dates of service are requested. Names may be submitted to Jess Bennett, 213 E. McKibben Ave., Rossville IL 60973 or Raymond Owen, 104 Green St., Rossville.

The committee is planning a fundraiser for the project to be held Saturday.

A pork burger lunch, cooked by Mark Willard, will be served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the American Legion Post at the corner of Church and Thompson. The dinner will also include hot dogs, chips and drinks. Fro-

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Water treatment grant will force Rossville water rate increase

ROSSVILLE—Village officials have learned that to get money, they’re going to have to increase village income.

Village water rates are expected to increase, in order for Rossville to qualify for a grant for an improved water treatment facility.

The village hopes to get a state grant to pay a large part of the cost of the facility but the state will not consider the village for a grant unless it raises its water

rates, said Trustee Dick Queen, water/sewer committee chairman, said at Monday night’s village board meeting.

Although a specific amount was not determined, Mayor Terry Prillaman said the increase has to be enough to repay any money borrowed for the treatment plant.

Rates will be raised before the village applies for the grant. “We don’t have a choice,” Queen said. “We have to do it.”

Exactly what will be needed in the facility will be better known after Prillaman, Queen and the village engineer attend a meeting Aug. 23 in Bloomington. The meeting will focus on arsenic removal from water systems.

The EPA reduced acceptable levels of arsenic in water and while Rossville’s system met old standards, it will not meet the new mandates.

In unrelated action, the board:

- approved vacating an alley at the Rossville Church of Christ. In return, the church will give the village a 66’ right of way for a future street on the church’s eastern boundary.
- learned from Trustee Vic Lackey that ordinances already exist prohibiting placing rummage sale signs and other materials on streetlamps and utility poles. Police Chief Danny Danner said one ticket has already been written to someone who put rummage sale signs on village lampposts.
- discussed having a regularly-scheduled hydrant flushing times to remove rust levels in the water.
- approved a purchase order system for planned buying. The board also approved limits on spending with purchases up to \$100 to be approved by the committee chairman, finance committee chairman or mayor. Purchases of \$1,000 or more will require board approval.
- discussed putting a sign on Chicago St., where businesses burned in 2004. The sign would direct visitors to existing businesses and help people “keep their eye on the donut and not the hole,” Prillaman said.
- Village officials will speak with business owners about sign wording and if the property owner will allow the sign to be posted.
- discussed barring heavy truck traffic from

This year’s winners announced in Molly’s annual tomato contest

More than 60 entries were judged Saturday during the annual Tomato Contest sponsored by Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert. This year’s winners include:

- Tomato**
Heaviest Goliath—Helen Custer
Largest Circumference Goliath—Helen Custer
Most Perfect Large (unknown variety) - Tom Fortier
- Heirloom Tomato**
Heaviest by Weight: Lauren and Taylor Sheppard
Irish, Largest Circumference: John Bray
Irish Largest, Most Perfect: Gary James
- Yellow Tomato**
Best Collection: Frances Long
- Pear, Grape, Cherry**
Georgia Stone, Margarita Payne
- Potato**
Unknown variety, Tom Fortier
- Peppers**
Overall: Helen Custer
Color: Betsy Clingenpeel
- Tomato**
Best Collection: John and Dorothy Bray
- Garden Gathering**
Helen Custer



Angie Simpson’s “Karl Malden” look-alike won Most Unusual honors at the annual tomato contest sponsored by Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert.

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Obituaries

HARDWICK—William C. Hardwick, 69, of Hoopeston died at 9:20 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15, 2005 at home. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Floral Hill Cemetery with military honors by the Hoopeston American Legion and V.F.W. There will be no visitation. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 85. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 65. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 86, low 68.
For current weather conditions, call Hoopes-
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