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## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

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### New wireless internet company set to debut on January 1

A new company plans to put wireless Internet throughout the city starting January 1, 2007.

Representatives of Illiana Web Company spoke at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting to discuss their plans and ask for as-needed rights of way on city property to install equipment.

Principals in the company include Ed Hubbard, CEO/president; Mary Ann Kaufmann, CFO; Michael Ferrell, COO; Dale Hubbard, vice president, sales and acquisitions; Sherrene Hubbard, vice president, marketing/public relations; Chris Welch, vice president, engineering; and Steven Hupp, website development.

Ed Hubbard, who has served as CEO of WitchSchool, will leave WitchSchool at the end of the year to concentrate on the new company.

The company has divided the city into a grid of 13 areas, Ferrell said. Antennas will be placed in each of the areas to provide wireless Internet service.

The antennas will communicate with a T1 phone line to carry data. T1 lines and equipment are coming in and are expected to be up by Jan. 1, Ferrell said.

Internet speeds are estimated at 100 megabits per second for those close to the antennas and 11 megabits per second for those on the fringe areas. Each antenna is expected to cover 1,000 feet.

Along with Internet service, Illiana Web Company also plans to provide VOIP, voice over internet protocol,



Dale Hubbard, left, and Michael Ferrell discuss a new internet company during a presentation at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

allowing users to make unlimited local and long distance calls for about \$350 per month, Dale Hubbard said.

Ferrell said the company will offer 256 encryption for privacy on designated emergency channels which could be used by city emergency personnel.

Internet service is one phase of what the company hopes to accomplish, according to a business plan distributed by the company at Tuesday's meeting. The other part of the business is expected to be data storage in an "information factory" to provide connection, computing power and data storage for individuals and com-

**See INTERNET on other side**

**B I N G O**  
 every Thursday 7 p.m.  
**Hoopeston**  
**American Legion**  
 502 E. Penn


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Don't Miss Earl Martin as

 **Scrooge**

A three-act dramatic presentation  
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 19 different characters  
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 Fun for the whole family!  
**Friday, December 15**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Hoopeston Civic Center at**  
**McFerren Park**  
*As a courtesy to those in attendance,*  
*please, no infants. Thank you.*

## Internet continued from other side

munities.

Once the system is up in Hoopeston, company officials plan to branch out to Danville and other communities along the east side of Interstate 57.

Alderman Bill Goodwine said that while good internet service is vital to the community, the city should interview several companies before backing a particular entity and would require more information, such as what types of contracts the company wants, franchise information and quality assurance issues.

### Fish Fry

5-8 p.m. Friday

## American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Also chicken breast & shrimp & grilled fish

*Includes salad or slaw, baked beans, fries, roll.*

**Carry-outs available 283-6312**





## Thursday

# is \$1 beer

## night at

# V.F.W.

## Public Welcome

### Benefits welcome!

## Jackpot Doubles

Saturday, Dec. 9 **\$1,000**

Elliott's Mess 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

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*Illinois/Northwestern game!*

## Pla-Mor Lanes

719 W. Elm, Hoopeston



Goodwine said he has researched the issue and has come up with more questions than answers. "For every question I come up with, when I go for the answer, I come up with three more," he said.

Also, he said, since the city collects a fee from another Internet service provider with equipment on the water tower, Illiana Web Company should also have to pay a fee if it uses city property.

Hubbard responded that the company is not looking for exclusivity from the city.

In other business, the council heard from Karen Mauldin-Curtis of the Department for Rural Affairs Peace Corps program.

Mauldin-Curtis spoke highly of the economic development steering committee that has been overseeing Peace Corps Fellow Shannon Ruh. "No other liaison committee in any of the 100 communities meets as regularly as this committee," she said. "They meet weekly (and) they're available to Shannon daily. I can't tell you how impressed we are at the Institute and the Peace Corps Fellows program with your community."

Mauldin-Curtis distributed plaques to committee members attending, including aldermen Goodwine and Brandon Hamilton and members Bill Nicholls and Dale Lithgow.

In other action, the council:

- Heard from Alderman Ed Lotz that Robert D. Pratt was hired as a new police officer as of December 4. He will attend the Police Training Institute beginning Jan. 7, 2007. Hoopeston's other new officer, Ron Cade, will graduate from PTI on Jan. 11, 2007.

- Reiterated hours for local bars on New Year's Eve, which falls on a Sunday. Normally, bars are open from noon to 10 p.m. Sundays but may remain open until 1 a.m. on Dec. 31.



**Alderman Brandon Hamilton, left, accepts a plaque from Karen Mauldin-Curtis of the Institute for Rural Affairs, for his work on the economic development steering committee which has overseen the Peace Corps Fellow Shannon Ruh.**

- Heard from Alderman Jerry Yonkers that the sidewalk in front of the Willdon Building on Market St. will be made handicapped-accessible as soon as possible.

- Unanimously approved the tax levy of 1.88, up from 1.86 last year. The amount will generate \$470 in property tax on a hose valued at \$75,000, Goodwine said.

- Extended a development agreement between the city and Bhupendra Naik, who plans to build a motel at Rtes 1 and 9 south of Community Bank.

- Officials have been unable to reach an agreement with property owners in the area. According to the Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency, the organization will not give the property a No Further Remediation (NFR) letter unless wells within 500 feet of the property are capped.

- The old agreement expired Oct. 31. The new one is good until May 31, 2007.

- Approved a new investment company for employee retirement funds. Two proposals were submitted, by McMurray Insurance and Lance Raver of Edward Jones. The council unanimously approved using Raver's selection based on a more manageable number of investment options.

- Heard from Alderman Bill Crusinberry that engineers Dailey & Associates are preparing a proposal to refurbish the city water tanks.

## Weather



Chance of flurries today. High 19. Tonight, clear. Low 7. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 30, low 22.

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

## Police News



**A set of keys** was found Tuesday in the downtown area. They were later claimed by the owner.

**No tickets** or injuries were reported in an accident at 5:10 p.m. Tuesday in the 300 block of East Main.

Police said Brandi Martin of Hoopeston, in a 2003 Ford van, was eastbound on Main and had stopped to back into a parking space in front of the Rent Way store. Meanwhile, Vonda Pruitt, also of Hoopeston, had pulled into the space. Martin did not see Pruitt's vehicle and backed into it.

Martin was at fault for improper backing.

## Obituaries

**KELNHOFER**—Betty L. Kelnhofer, 70, of Hoopeston died at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, 2006 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be noon-2 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society or Carle Hospice Memorial Fund.

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