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New ideas cooking for Hoopeston Civic Center kitchen

The Hoopeston City Council unanimously approved hiring an architect to cook up changes in the civic center kitchen.

Charles Reifsteck, of Gorski-Reifsteck, Champaign, will create a drawing updating the Hoopeston Civic Center kitchen, said Alderman Carl Ankenbrand at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Reifsteck met with Steve Laker, Vermilion County Health Department administrator, economic developer Shannon Ruh, Eugene Warner and Paul Tutwiler to discuss ways to improve the kitchen, including creating more space.

Ankenbrand, who is parks committee chairman, said the fee for Reifsteck's service will be \$7,300 plus reimbursed expenses, including mileage, copying and other costs.

Ankenbrand said having a plan would help when soliciting grants. Also, "if people knew what we were doing, they'd probably donate also," he said.

See CITY on other side

Candidates file for county seats

A local representative to the Vermilion County Board will face a challenger next year.

Travis Taylor of Hoopeston will run against incumbent Republican Chris Leigh of Rankin.

Three Democrats will run in the February 5, 2007 primary to see which will be on the ballot for state's attorney.

Bill Donahue of Danville, who currently serves as assistant state's attorney in Iroquois County and Derek Girtan of Oakwood had previously filed to run. On Monday, the last day to file, they were joined by Danville attorney Dan Brown.

The winner of the primary will face Randy Brinegar of Danville in the Nov. 4 general election. He is currently a Vermilion County assistant state's attorney.

Other races for county office include the office of auditor, where incumbent Linda Lucas Anstey is being challenged by Republican Stephen W. Green of Danville.

There will also be a race for circuit clerk as Democrat Darla Cruppenink of Westville, and Republican Dennis Gardener, of Ridge Farm, square off.

There are no challengers for the offices of coroner, held by Republican Peggy Johnson or recorder, held by Republican Barb Young.

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Briefly

Poppy Day

The Hoopeston VFW and VFW Auxiliary will hold their annual Poppy Day street corner drive from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. Your support is appreciated.

Neighborhood Watch

Darren Brewster and Mary Jo Polson of the Hoopeston Jaycees will be the featured speakers at the Nov. 13 meeting of Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch. It will be held at 3 p.m. at country Terrace. Everyone is invited.

Veterans Day services

• Hoopeston American Legion and VFW posts will hold a joint Veterans Day service at 10:30 a.m. Monday,

Nov. 12 at the Veterans Memorial in the southwest corner of McFerren Park. Michael Mastin is set to be the keynote speaker, with music provided by the Hoopeston Area band.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the civic center.

After the service, everyone is invited to the Legion for free chili and potato soup.

• Rossville American Legion will hold a Veterans Day service at noon Sunday, Nov. 11 at the Rossville Veterans Memorial. After the service, a lunch will be held at the Legion post at the corner of Church and Thompson.

City continued from other side

One group who would like to help is a local sorority whose members have offered to help with fundraising and grant-writing, he said.

While the civic center kitchen will get a new look, water collection employees will be getting a new system.

Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said a Civic Systems computer system will be installed at a cost of \$50,000. Half the money will be paid this year, which will allow the system to be put on a list for spring installation, and the remainder will be paid after the system is installed.

The existing system is old and crashes, Goodwine said. It also has been sometimes inconsistent in keeping track of checks used to pay water bills.

The city will spend another \$3,500 to put its website into a format that is more easily changeable. Goodwine said the city will use CMS Made Simple, public domain software, that will allow employees to make changes to the website, saving money.

The current website was developed by Allan Simpson. Any changes to the site had to be done by him for a fee, Goodwine said. With the new system, Ruh will learn to update the site and teach other city employees to make changes, as well.

Simpson's proposal includes switching the site to the new software, training and one year of technical support.

In unrelated action, the council approved a new lease agreement with Crown Castle Communications.

Crown Castle leases space on which a tower sits on

the city slab. The existing lease would expire in 2019 but the company wanted to extend it until 2049, allowing it to sign long-term leases with providers of such things such as cell phone service.

Under the existing agreement, Hoopeston would receive \$6,000 for the first two years, \$6,600 for the next five years and \$7,200 for the next five years.

The new agreement calls for an \$8,500 "signing bonus" plus up to four percent each year in a cost-of-living agreement.

In other business, the council:

• Accepted a bid from Schuler's for perpetual care urns at Floral Hill. Schuler's bid was \$28.75 per urn and was the only bid that met specifications, said cemetery committee chairman Chuck Davis. A second bid, from Berry's Garden Center, was for \$35.95 each but did not meet specs.

• Approved participating in Illinois Municipal League's Min/Max program. With it, the city will be \$16,000 less in liability insurance but will assume \$30,000 in additional exposure. This is the fifth year the city has been part of the program and has not had to pay for the additional risk.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 51. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 34. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 49, low 33.

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

A donation of a salad or dessert to share would be appreciated.

In case of inclement weather, the observance will be moved to the Legion.

9 Pin No Tap

Sign up 6:30 p.m. Saturday

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NOTICES

Village of Rossville accepting sealed bids, minimum bid starting at \$4,000 for a 1997 Chevy 4X\$ truck until Monday, Nov. 19, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at village office. Bids will be opened at board meeting at 7 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 19, 2007. Village reserves right to reject any or all bids.

Chris Pearson
Village Clerk

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