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**Just the Facts**®  
**Thursday, September 17, 2009**  
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**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942** [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348  
 Email: [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net)

## Hoopeston council changes legal firm to save TIF dollars

A change in legal counsel will save Hoopeston several thousands of dollars in its Tax Increment Financing (TIF) fund.

At Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, recommended cancelling the city's contract with current TIF counsel, Jacobs & Associates, of Bloomington and instead using Kurt Froehlich of Evans, Froehlich, Beth & Chamley of Champaign.

Jacobs & Associates, and a subsidiary, Economic Development Group, cost the city more than \$30,000 per year, while Froehlich's firm charges \$175 per hour. In a meeting with Goodwine and city attorney Paul Manion, Froehlich estimated the city would need to spend \$1,000 to \$5,000 on TIF legal services.

The most recent contract with Jacobs expires in April 2010, Goodwine said.

Between changing firms and the recent elimination of the city's economic developer position, Goodwine estimated the city will save about \$100,000 per year.

In unrelated business, city officials will begin cracking down on abandoned buildings and those in disrepair.

Alderman Sue Comstock, head of the civic improvement committee, said action against building owners will have to be prioritized. "We can only tackle one or two at a time," she said, adding tearing them all down would cost in excess of \$200,000.

Comstock said the first priority is a house in the 500 block of East McCracken and buildings owned by Dennis Ballanger on South Market.

Since Comstock announced at the last council meeting that the city would be cracking down on property owners, she said she received several calls from people wondering if their property is on the list.

"If you think you have a problem with your property, then you probably do have a problem with your property," she said.

In related business, Comstock said that according to state law, roofers must be licensed by the state Department of Professional Regulation. To become licensed, roofers must pass a test. Testing fees cost over \$200 each in categories of residential; commercial and industrial; and commercial, industrial and residential. There is an additional \$125 fee to file an application for certification.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Approved annexing property at 1107 S. Second Ave., owned by Frances Troxel.
- Congratulated city workers for their efforts during the National Sweetcorn Festival.
- Heard from Comstock about complaints regarding those who have "perpetual" rummage sales. An ordinance covers rummage sales and is expected to be more strenuously enforced.
- Heard from Alderman Ed Lotz, police committee chairman, that Sgt. Marty Dobkins of the Hoopeston Auxiliary Police, will retire September 18 after 24 years.
- Will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday to address a language concern in a resolution regarding the Affordable Workforce Housing development.
- Heard from Jean Minick that more volunteers are needed for an income survey of residents. The survey will determine the city's eligibility for grants. To volunteer, call Minick at 283-7873.
- Heard from Alderman Jeff Johnson, street/alley committee chair, that fall cleanup will begin October 5. Only yard waste and brush will be collected. Concrete will not be picked up and burn barrels will not be emptied.

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 Also serving our **BIG TACOS!**  
 Starting at noon  
 Public Welcome Benefits welcome!  
 Corner of Fourth Ave. & Orange, Hoopeston



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2nd Annual  
**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**  
**Saturday, Sept. 26 2 p.m.**  
 Open to 1st 20 teams to sign up - \$15/team  
 Sign up by Thursday, Sept. 24  
**\$175 first prize, \$75 second, \$50 third**  
**BJ's Pump**  
 Bar & Package Liquor Store  
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IT'S ABOUT MAKING THE YEARS COUNT"**

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**Go to Rhythm City for 4 Hrs. Get Free Lunch & \$10 Play  
Then to Jumers (New Place) In Rock Island.  
2 Nts.\$156.PP**

**Two \$5 Cdns.off Lunch or Dinner  
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Pick up flyers at L&M or Hennings**

**Call Carolyn for details 217-283-7406**

**Hoopeston American Legion**

**502 W. Penn**

**Texas Hold 'Em**

**Sunday, Septeber 20, 2009**

**Open at Noon, Play at 1 p.m.**

**\$50 buy-in, \$25 add on**

## Indoors and Outdoors

By Molly Culbert

Yesterday, someone stopped by to ask what kind of tree was in the front yard of the Rossville High School for so many years. It was truly unique, wasn't it? I, for one, really miss it. It was great to know that there are kindred souls, aware of their surroundings and tuned in to nature's treasures.

I love the chicory and Queen Anne's lace that grows at the roadsides each autumn and mourn when its time in the sun is cut short by the mowers.

Did you ever wonder at the asparagus that still

comes up through the grass each spring, in spite of being cut down over and over? It is a survivor of the canning factories and years ago.

Another surprise that we got this summer that was not always the best growing conditions for tomatoes. The old heirloom varieties in some local gardens produced the very best, bountiful crop of tomatoes. These are the "real" old varieties. The seed came from families that have "always" saved their seed. I'm sure grateful someone saved them.

## Briefly

### Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots story program will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Hoopeston Public Library's children's room. The program is open to preschool children who are accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

### Worldwide day of healing

MorningStar Church, 201 N. Chicago St., Rossville, will participate in Worldwide Day of Healing from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday at the church. Healing for the body, soul, and spirit is available for everyone.

For more information, call (217) 748-6196 or (217) 272-3442.

## Obituaries

**ANSPACH** - Graveside memorial service for Ann (Richmond) Anspach, 58, of Naples, Fla., formerly of Hoopeston, who died February 23, 2009, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**WITHERS** - Mary E. (Collins) Withers, 95, of Claytonville, died at 10:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, 2009 at Country Health Nursing Home, Gifford. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to St. John Lutheran Church, Schwer.

### Softball meeting

Hoopeston Area girls softball will meet at 2 p.m. Sunday in the John Greer art room.

### Enjoy facts stranger than fiction

Tom Sweeney will present the second in a series of local history readings, designed to inform an entertain, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Hoopeston Public Library meeting room. Refreshments will be served before the program ends at 4 p.m.

Sweeney, Illinois Arts Educator of the Year, will read selections from Centennial Book of Vermilion County, Illinois Sept. 1826-1926.

## New Books at the Library

### Fiction:

There's Something about St. Tropez by Elizabeth Adler (large print)

East of the Border by Johnny Boggs (large print/western)

The Valley of Outlaws by Max Brand (large print)

A Princess of Landover by Terry Brooks (science fiction)

## Weather

Sunny today. High 76. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 50. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 79, low 55.

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

## Court Dispositions



August 6

**Vicki Ford**, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to battery, fined \$180, converted to 23 hours public service; status hearing September 3.

**Matthew Ray**, Mahomet, status hearing November 5.

**Kyle M. Douglas**, Alvin, status hearing September 3.

**Kyle M. Douglas**, Alvin, to perform 29 hours public service work in lieu of \$230 fine; status hearing September 3.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is taking applications for qualified teachers. Applicants are required to have at least two years of college or have equivalent experience and credentials. They also must be at least 19 years of age. Please bring resume and unofficial transcripts to the Rossville High School building. For more information please call Ashley Dobkins at 217-748-6370.

### HOUSES FOR RENT

Rossville: 204 Church. 2 BR. \$425/mo.+ deposit. No pets. Available immediately. For application, call (217) 304-3477

### HOUSES FOR SALE

3 Bedroom house in Hoopeston. Large lot, 2 car garage, central air, vinyl siding, new roof, updated paint and flooring. Priced well below appraisal at \$48,000.No Contracts. For a private showing and more information call 217-304-6547.

Hoopeston. By owner. Good location. 2 story, 3-4 BR, 2.5 bath. Convenient upstairs laundry & floor plan. Central air, new furnace. \$39,000 firm. (217) 377-6741 for showing.

2 story, 3-4 BR house on corner lot in Rossville. Great neighborhood, 1 block from grade school. Asking \$29,500. Will consider selling on contract. Call (217) 213-1400

### RUMMAGE SALES

St. Anthony Catholic Church parking lot sale, 7 a.m. Sat. Lawn equipment, tools, kitchenware, glassware, microwaves, furniture, exercise equipment. All proceeds to St. Vincent DePaul organization to assist families in need.

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

1995 Buick Regal. Runs excellent. Great car for work or teen! Very well maintained. (217) 339-2328

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