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Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

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# Huge increase cost of road salt freezes street/alley budget

The cost of keeping Hoopeston streets ice-free has more than doubled since last year.

Last year, Hoopeston purchased 200 tons of road salt, at a cost of \$58 per ton, said Alderman Randy Carter, street/alley committee chairman, at last week's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

This year, salt will cost a whopping \$132 per ton for 125 tons, if the city prepays by September 26, Carter said.

Carter budgeted \$7,000 for salt this winter, but the prepay deal requires an outlay of \$16,500. "We have enough in the account right now but moving forward, we won't have enough money," Carter said, adding

some future point, the department budget will need a cash infusion.

Additionally, Carter said motorists may see some limited use of salt during the winter. Officials are looking at a salt/sand mixture and are still trying to price that, he said.

In other business, a request from a local church for façade funds will be granted but raised questions from the council.

The city's façade committee recommended two grants, of \$5,000 each, be given to Hoopeston IGA, for façade improvements currently underway and to New

See BUDGET on other side

# Winners of new program named

The first winner of a new program has been announced.

Margaret and Arthur Gonzalez have been named Shining Star winners by Hoopeston Community Alliance.

The Shining Star program recognizes Hoopeston residents who make significant upgrades to their homes, businesses or landscaping.

The Gonzalez' were recognized for improvements made at 425 S. Second Ave.

Photo by Nora Gholson





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#### Personal Aide – Hoopeston Head Start

Responsible for providing personal care to a youth with special medical needs in a classroom setting. The desired candidate will be required to have a high school diploma or GED, and a CNA certification. All successful applicants must pass a criminal background check. Ability to speak Spanish is desired. Go to www.comaction.org for a full description and directions on how to apply. AA/EEO



**Cut-A-Thon** 

1-4 p.m. Saturday

100% of proceeds to benefit

# **Hoopeston Animal Shelter**



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## **Court Dispositions**



#### August 7

**Brittany Kilgore**, Watseka, pleaded guilty to purchase/acceptance of alcohol by minor, fined \$380; status hearing October 2.

**Trinidad Hernandez**, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to disobeying police, fined \$230; status hearing October 2.

**Bridget Strawser**, Hoopeston, failed to appear for disorderly conduct, found guilty by default; sentencing September 4.

**Starla Casner**, Hoopeston, status hearing September

Esther Tetrault, Hoopeston, status hearing October 2.

# **Justin Plecker**, Hoopeston, case moved forward for further enforcement.

## **Police News**



Michael Baker, 33, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 5:46p.m. Monday at Parkview Court. He was charged with breach of peace constituting disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 32-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged Baker went into an apartment and screamed at the residents.

Baker was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

## **Budget** continued from other side

Beginnings Church, which has plans to revamp the front of their new sanctuary in the former Hollywood Video building.

Saying he thought the façade program was for businesses, Carter said allowing the grant would open the program up to all Hoopeston churches.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said the façade committee was implemented for downtown but that he rewrote guidelines to cover businesses throughout Hoopeston. Guidelines for the updated program state the applicant must own a building within the city limits and that the structure must be operated as a business "defined for this program as any building from which goods or services are being marketed to the public."

Crusinberry said the goals are to help businesses that may be struggling and also to improve the downtown. "This is going to be a tremendous improvement to downtown Hoopeston," he said.

Carter responded that he wasn't necessarily opposed to giving the church money but that he wanted the council to be aware that other churches might expect funding.

While Crusinberry said other churches might not apply, Alderman Larry Baughn said officials have a year to think about it "because we're out of money."

The façade committee budget of \$10,000 was depleted by the two grants.

Carter said he assumed part of the reason for the façade program was to make businesses more appealing so they could sell more product and pay more sales tax to the city. While the council voted unanimously to grant IGA's request, it was a 5-3 vote for New Beginnings' application, with Carter, Bill Goodwine and Brandon Hamilton voting against and Joe Fell, Carl Ankenbrand, Bill McElhaney, Baughn and Nancy Stipp voting in favor.

In unrelated business, the council heard from engineer Mike Streff, of Farnsworth Group, that the first sand filter has been rehabilitated and that the iron level in tested water, which had been running at 1.3-1.5 ppm (parts per million), was .7 ppm.

Streff also said the elevated tower would be drained for repairs perhaps this week. While the tower is drained, the city will use three tanks placed throughout the city to maintain pressure in case of a fire. Streff stressed the tanks are for pressure only, not for water storage.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Amended the budget to earmark \$5,000 in tax increment financing (TIF) funds for Hoopeston Community Alliance expenses.
- Heard from Alex Houmess, of Save the Lorraine, that the Little Lorraine will soon have a new sign.
- Heard from Tom O'Shaughnessy, candidate for circuit judge in the November election. He is in private practice in Danville and also serves as Vermilion County recorder of deeds.

#### Weather



Sunny today. High 74. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 51. Tomorrow, sunny. High 77, low 53.

# —Briefly

#### The Gathering

Rossville area senior citizens will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday at Rossville Fire Station for their monthly gathering. The event is sponsored by Rossville Community Organization.

#### **Obituaries**

**ALLEN** - Charles A. "Chas" Allen, 72, of Milford, died at 2:04 a.m. Monday, Sept. 22, 2014, at home. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Milford Christian Church. Private graveside service will be at a later date at Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, is in charge of arrangements.

## Classifieds

#### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Honeywell Apartments: 2 BR, includes water, heat, pest control, off street parking (815) 984-4513

#### HELP WANTED

Area farmer looking for harvest help. CDL and clean drug screen are a must! Would help obtain CDL for the correct applicant. Send short resume and 3 references to <a href="mailto:joesmith8320@gmail.com">joesmith8320@gmail.com</a>

Seasonal driver needed. CDL required and must pass drug screen. For information call 217-375-4275 or visit Crop Production Services 289N 1700 East Rd Cissna Park, IL 60924

Dietary/kitchen help needed. Current Illinois State Food Sanitation License required. Must apply in person at Autumn Fields.

Greene Galvanized Stairs is accepting applications for full-time Production and Packaging positions. Fabrication and/or order fulfillment experience is a plus. Send resume to PO Box 191, East Lynn IL 60932 or jobs@greenebinstairs.com.

#### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Hoopeston - Duplex for sale. 2 bedroom units, many updates. \$9900/year gross rents, tenants pay all utilities. Owner may finance with approved credit and 10% down. \$65,000. For more information, call 217-304-6547.

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