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Just the Facts

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

Thursday, December 20, 2018

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www.justthefacts.net

EPA commits to funding sewer lining project, bid accepted

Construction on a north side sewer lining project is expected to begin in the spring after the Illinois EPA committed funds for it and a bid accepted for the work.

Hoerr Construction of Goodfield was the low bidder on the project, at \$451,626.60. Work will include 7,662 feet of sanitary sewer lining on Sixth St. between McCracken and Thompson. Rehabilitation of 26 manholes and lateral grouting is also included.

Ald. Lourdine Florek, water/sewer chairman, announced the bid at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting. Two other bids were received, including one for \$478,040.90 from Insituform Technologies of Chestfield, Mo., and \$533,184.20 from Visu-Sewer of Pewaukee, Wis.

The engineering estimate for the project was \$512,540.60, which includes a 10 percent contingency.

Officials have previously said the work is not expected to reduce flooding on the city's north side but in keeping storm water from the sanitary sewer system, it is hoped sewage can be kept from residents' homes.

Tracy Billings, engineer with Danville-based C2 Engineers, said the EPA has committed to \$692,348.20 for the entire project, including pre-work costs, which is less than the \$703,749.69 anticipated. Hoopeston will repay the loan over 20 years at \$1.84 percent interest.

The city may qualify for principal forgiveness on the

loan, similar to the 30 percent forgiven on the water storage tank project, but it is too soon to know if the EPA will offer it and what percentage it will be, Billings said.

C2 Engineers began studying the project in 2016, recommending lining rather than replacing sanitary sewers to save money. At the time, replacing the lines was estimated at \$2 million.

The council accepted the bid in a 5-0 vote, with aldermen Bill McElhaney, Ryan Anderson and Carl Ankenbrand absent.

In related discussion, water/sewer Supt. Steve Baker said employees have been busy locating and mapping manholes as part of Hoopeston's Collection, management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) program, mandated by the EPA. Under the program, municipalities map sanitary sewer lines, manholes and other information, as well as note problems and suggest plans to fix them. "We need to keep our infrastructure strong," Baker said, "because as far as I'm concerned, if you don't have infrastructure, you don't have a town."

In other business, Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance chairman, presented the proposed 2018 tax levy of \$783,385, up \$6,000 or one percent, from last year.

The biggest increase is in the police pension fund. In 2017, \$192,000 was levied, but for 2018 it will be

See SEWER on other side

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Min. donation \$5/adults,
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Tune in at 5 p.m. tonight-

Hoopeston Happenings

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Briefly

Christmas carols at Hoopeston UMC

Lou Graham will play traditional Christmas music on the pipe organ, beginning at 1 p.m. Thursday. All are invited to come and sing along or just sit and enjoy the old familiar carols.

Christmas services

Hoopeston UMC will hold two Christmas Eve services, at 7 p.m. and again at 11 p.m.

Wellington UMC will hold a Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m.

First Free Will Baptist Church of Hoopeston will present a Christmas program, Little Angels, at 11 a.m.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 12:26 p.m. Tuesday for a dryer fire with visible flames and smoke in the 600 block of East McCracken. The fire was extinguished. No injuries were reported.



Have you seen me?

Sally, a four-month old calico kitten, is missing from her rural Hoopeston home. She may have jumped into the engine compartment of the family truck and come to Hoopeston, possibly jumping out at Honeywell School. If seen, call Duane Sheppard, (217) 497-7495.

Sunday at the church 522 N. Tenth Ave., one block east of Rt. 1 on Thompson. A birthday party for Jesus with free dinner will follow the service.

Hoopeston Community Church of the Nazarene, 402 E. Honeywell, will hold Christmas services on Sunday, with a children's service at 10:30 a.m. and candle-lighting service at 5 p.m. Please join us - we'd love to have you!

Annual Christmas dinner

The seventh annual Hoopeston Community Christmas Dinner will be held from noon-3 p.m. Christmas Day at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. Dinner is free and open to everybody and delivery is available for shut-ins.

Reservations to eat at the center or for delivery may be made by calling (217) 283-5544, (217) 495-1620 or (815) 341-8541. Rolls and desserts are needed, as are volunteers the day of the dinner. To find out how you can help,

Sewer continued from other side

\$296,000 to help make up a shortfall in the fund. "We're better than average but we still need to fix the problem," he said.

Goodwine said the increase will be offset somewhat by a \$15,000 decrease in Workman's Compensation costs and a \$6,000 decrease in liability insurance. Also, the city will not levy in City Garbage Disposal Purposes, which last year was at \$55,000. "We have a really good (garbage) rate on that and enough money in the pot to pay for that and skip a year," he said.

The council approved the proposed levy 6-0, with Mayor Bill Crusinberry voting.

Weather

Rain likely today. High 46. Tonight, chance of rain. Low 33. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 36, low 25.

Rossville Family Restaurant
715 S. Chicago

will close early Monday Dec 24th and
Tuesday Dec 25th at 2:30 pm in observance of
the Christmas Holiday.

call one of the numbers. Monetary donations may be made at First Farmers Bank and Trust, Hoopeston.

Christmas closings

- Just the Facts will not be printed Monday-Wednesday next week.
- Republic Services will be closed Christmas Day. Garbage pickup will run one day late the rest of the week.

From the Blotter

Javier Aguirre, 43, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 10:40 a.m. Tuesday to the 700 block of Scott Dr., for a battery that had occurred. He was charged with domestic battery and child endangerment and taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Donald E. Underwood, 34, and Vicki Ford, 60, both of Hoopeston, were arrested after police were called at 3:36 p.m. Tuesday to a disturbance in the 600 block of South Fourth St. Each was charged with disorderly conduct and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Elyscha Wells, 21, was arrested after police were called at 9:20 p.m. to a domestic disturbance at Washington and Third St. He was charged with domestic battery and taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 BR, single/double occupancy efficiency apartments available at Princess Apartments, Hoopeston. \$450/mo., \$450 deposit. Clean, secure building. All utilities, refrigerator, stove included, coin laundry available on premises. No pets. Pick up application at Bricks and Ivy Sports, 201 E. Main St.

HELP WANTED

Openings available for construction workers. Concrete experience would be helpful. Apply in person at Silver Brothers Construction Co., 105 E. Washington St., Hoopeston.

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