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Lourdine Osborne
editor

just the facts

Tuesday, March 29, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock
ad manager

City planning commission to recommend zoning variance

In a unanimous vote, the Hoopeston planning commission voted Monday to recommend a variance requested by Ed and Barbara Lockhart.

In a petition to the city, the Lockharts requested a variance for subdividing, which would allow them to sell one acre of land east of the Presbyterian Church on Route 9.

The land will be used as a potential site for a house.

Petitioning the city for a subdivision variance was one of two ways the Lockharts could divide their property, said city attorney Calvin Hultquist.

The second way, an eight-step subdividing process, would have taken more time and, according to the Lockharts' petition, been cost-prohibitive to selling the property.

Ed Lockhart, who appeared at Monday's hearing, told the commission that he will bear all costs associated with subdividing the property, such as running water lines to the land. "I'm not asking for a dime," he told the panel.

Other utilities, including sewer, electricity and telephone, are already available at the property,

he said.

The only expense the city will incur is the \$1,000 cost of installing a fire hydrant in the area, said Mayor Bob Ault.

Alderman Bill Goodwine said when Lockhart first requested a zoning change on another piece of land, which was subsequently purchased by Bill Medler, city officials did not consider the area a subdivision. "This is number two," he said. "It's a subdivision."

Goodwine said by seeking a variance, rather than going through the lengthier subdividing process, such amenities as street lights, curbing, sidewalks and gutters could be avoided. "I'm not saying (the planning commission should make Lockhart) do that," he said. "Just don't do it by default."

Lockhart told the commission the variance would benefit the city by increasing the tax base. "We're trying to get the town booming a little bit," he said.

The issue will go before the city council for final approval.

Former superintendent pleads guilty, receives probation

The former superintendent of the Milford school districts has pleaded guilty to stealing a computer from the high school.

William J. Peach, 49, pleaded guilty yesterday in Iroquois County court.

He was sentenced to 30 months' probation and fined \$500. Peach will also have to make restitution of over \$500.

The plea stems from Peach's arrest Feb. 18. He

was charged with theft, official misconduct and disorderly conduct (filing a false police report) after he reported the missing computer as stolen.

Peach reportedly sold the computer to a former colleague in the Dana, Ill. school district. Peach was principal there before coming to Milford last July.

Peach resigned Feb. 28. He was in the first year of a three-year contract with the Milford districts.

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Just the Facts

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New voice covering local news at Hoopeston's WHPO

There is a new voice - a female voice - broadcasting local news.

Mary Ann Haas joined the staff of WHPO radio Monday as the news director.

Haas comes to the station from Washington, Iowa, where she was employed at KCII. During her two and a half year stint there, Haas was evening air personality, then became public service director before being named news director three months ago.

The Fox River Grove native accepted the position at WHPO to get closer to her family, who live about 40 miles north of Chicago.

Haas, 24, was graduated from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn., where she majored in print journalism and radio broadcasting and minored in computer information systems.

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in a one-vehicle accident at 7:23 a.m. Monday. A truck driven by Harold D. Asbury, Paris, snapped a CIPS power pole while backing up at the McGee Oil lot on Front St.

Veronica Torres, 418 E. Seminary, reported to police Monday that she lost a black leather purse containing identification, driver's license and credit cards. If found, it may be turned in to the police station.

Charles Burton, 737 Trego Drive, reported that someone took an eagle yard ornament from his yard. The ornament is valued at \$75.

Obituaries

SANDERS - William "Bill" Sanders, 79, of Hoopeston, died at noon Saturday, March 26, 1994 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour before services at the funeral home.

Haas' interest in news started with college writing courses. "It was kind of a fun thing to do and it sprouted from there," she said. "I wasn't really sure, when I started out, what I wanted to get into, so I took both (majors). I knew I wanted to go into the news business."

During her freshman year of college, she was one of 20 national finalists in a Time magazine essay contest, penning a piece on the possibility of another oil crisis.

Haas' interests include biking, reading, "fiddling with the computer" and horseback riding, "but I haven't had a chance to do much of that lately," she said.

While at WHPO, Haas said she hopes to build up news coverage and become an active member of the community.

"The people seem really friendly," she said. "It seems like a nice area to settle in."

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
March 24, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Kip Menschel and Virgie Maxwell, both of Hoopeston.

March 25, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

March 26, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Ashley Crawford, Hoopeston.

March 27, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Lillian Buhrmester, Milford.

Weather

Mostly cloudy today. High in the mid 40s. Tonight, clouds diminishing. Low in the middle 20s. Tomorrow, sunny. High near 45, low near 26.

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