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just the facts

Wednesday, March 30, 1994
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
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Susan Comstock
ad manager

City officials bugged by revolving loan recipient

Criminal charges may be sought against the recipient of a city revolving loan.

Bill Fitzwater, former owner of Fitzwater Pest Control, received \$10,000 from the loan fund last November, then sold his business to Terminex Pest Control.

City officials allege that before he received the money, Fitzwater planned to sell the business.

"We're investigating fraud from the very beginning," said city attorney Calvin Hultquist. "It's our position that he knew all along that he was going to sell the business before he got the revolving loan."

"We're concerned about (the loan)," said alderman Bill Goodwine, chairman of the city's finance committee and member of the revolving loan committee. "I would guess that we might pursue this in the courts unless full payment is made."

Goodwine said the loan was made to Fitzwater,

but was to be repaid by the business. Since Fitzwater sold the business, Goodwine said the loan should be repaid in full immediately. "It would seem to me that that's only fair," he said.

Both Goodwine and Hultquist said Terminex is not a guilty party in this situation, saying that company basically purchased Fitzwater's customer lists, but did not assume his liabilities.

"I don't hold that against Terminex," Goodwine said. "That's just good business."

Although the loan was made last year, under terms of the agreement, Fitzwater was not to begin repaying the amount until this month.

Goodwine said the first payment, due on March 1, was late.

According to Fitzwater's attorney, Randall Ray of Danville, Fitzwater will continue to make the payments. Ray said he mailed the April payment Monday.

See "BUGGED" on other side

Hoopeston official thinks summer, looks ahead to pool opening

With spring barely a few days old, one Hoopeston official is looking toward summer.

Mike Eckersley, chairman of the city parks committee, said applications are being accepted for positions at the city swimming pool and concessions stand.

The pool will open Memorial Day, "barring any complications," Eckersley said.

Twelve people will be hired at the pool, Eckersley said, including six lifeguards, a manager, assistant manager and four office people.

The office staff will alternate between working

in the pool office and the concessions stand, he said.

Workers must be at least 14 years old. Lifeguards must have their lifesaving cards. This year, CPR classes may be offered for pool employees, Eckersley said. "You just never know when you're going to need it."

Those interested in working at the pool may pick up an application at city hall.

There's more to opening the pool than just finding employees, however. City workers still must

See "POOL" on other side


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Bugged continued from other side

Ray said Fitzwater, currently living in Crawfordsville, Ind., would not comment on the situation. "I'd probably advise him not to discuss it," he said.

Asked if he was aware criminal charges might be sought against his client, Ray responded with "no comment."

Goodwine and Hultquist said getting the loan paid in full immediately may be difficult.

"It's kind of hard to foreclose on a loan that's current," Goodwine said.

"He's not behind, but it's a matter of principle," said Hultquist.

Pool continued from other side

clean the pool and paint lane stripes on it for the Hoopeston Swim Team, Eckersley said, adding workers are getting off easy this year. "Next year, we'll probably have to paint the whole thing," he said.

Prices to swim at the pool are expected to remain the same as last year, with one-time admission at \$2.25 for adults and \$1.75 for children.

Season passes for one person will be \$40, \$50 for two people, and \$65 for three or more people.

The pool netted \$22,000 last year, but that amount covered only about half of what was needed to cover operating expenses.

Raising ticket prices is not the answer. "You

The revolving loan uses state funds to open new businesses or retain existing ones.

Under loan guidelines, applicants must have been turned down by two financial institutions before applying for a revolving loan. Applicants must also agree to hire one full-time employee for every \$10,000 borrowed. "We did get our job," Goodwine said. "Now we want our money."

Fitzwater's is the fourth revolving loan the city has made. Others went to Sharon Jones, former owner of the now-defunct Sharon's Corner Cafe; Brian Lawson, owner of Global Fashions, and Lowell Null, owner of M&N Pallet.

can't keep raising the prices or pretty soon, you won't have anybody out there," he said.

The balance of money needed to keep the pool open comes from the city's general fund.

Two things may help the pool be more profitable this year. "All we hope for is a lot of sunshine and warm weather," Eckersley said.

Rossville-Alvin board meets all day

The Rossville-Alvin school board met in special session yesterday. The meeting, which began at 9:30 a.m., was to discuss personnel matters. Other details were unavailable at press time.

In the hospital

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
March 28, 1994**

Admitted: none.

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Weather

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