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Tuesday, June 25, 1996  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

## Paper files suit against city for alleged meetings act violations

A civil suit is charging Hoopeston officials with violating the Open Meetings Act.

The suit, filed last Friday by the Hoopeston Chronicle, alleges the city's revolving loan committee violated the act by illegally closing at least two meetings to the public.

The meetings were held to discuss applications for the revolving loan fund, which provides funds for new or existing businesses. Applicants' financial information was to be discussed during the closed portions of the meetings.

The suit alleges that the committee's actions do not meet any of the 22 specific exemptions under which meetings may be closed, said media attorney Donald Craven.

Craven, of Springfield, handles legal work for the Illinois Press Association.

The suit is the latest move in a situation started last November, Craven said, when the Chronicle requested Vermilion County State's Attorney Michael Clary investigate the committee for holding a closed meeting.

Clary ruled the committee had violated the act, but declined to prosecute.

Following an April 1 committee meeting, the paper again contacted Clary. In a May 20 letter, Clary issued

an opinion stating the committee seemed to "be doing its best to satisfy the conflicting requirements of the Open Meetings Act and the Small Business Development Act."

The Small Business Development Act applies to funds from the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, which includes the city's revolving loan funds.

That law states that some financial information provided by applicants must be kept confidential.

Clary requested an opinion from the Illinois Attorney General's office on the conflict and suggested loan applications be handled administratively, but alderman Bill Goodwine, revolving loan committee chairman, said there are not enough city employees to implement the suggestion.

Committee meetings held following Clary's ruling, including one on June 3 and another June 20, included portions closed to the public.

The suit seeks an injunction against future closed revolving loan committee meetings, Craven said. When asked how the city could meet the requirements of both the Open Meetings Act and Small Business Development Act, he replied "I don't know. It's not my job."

Craven suggested if city officials want to use DCCA

## Briefly

### Rules of the Road

A Rules of the Road review course will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 10 at Hoopeston city hall. The course is free and open to anyone. For more information, call (217) 283-5833.

### Discount cards still available

The Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce still has

discount cards available.

The \$5 cards may be used at any of 15 Hoopeston businesses and is good until June 30, 1997.

Cards are available at the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce office, 211 S. Market.

For more information on the cards, contact the Chamber at (217) 283-7873.

**Special Daily Special**  
 Denrobian orchid spray in a vase  
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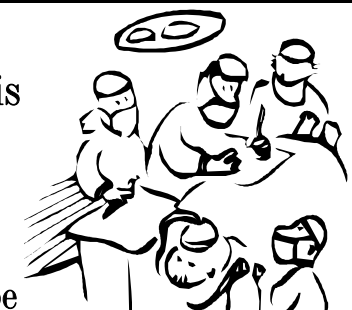
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# Vacation Check List

- ✓ Have oil changed
- ✓ Check tires
- ✓ Have exhaust looked at
- ✓ Check brakes
- ✓ See about struts & shocks
- ✓ New battery
- ✓ CHECK AIR CONDITIONING!!!

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## Police News



**Terri L. Sinclair**, 305 W. Chestnut, reported Sunday that someone broke the back window of her 1984 Honda while the car was parked at her home.

**The Hoopeston Fire Department** was called at 11:43 a.m. Sunday to the CIPS substation on Route 9 where wires were reportedly sparking.

**Samuel Montaya**, 16, of #20 Baer's Trailer Court, was ticketed for no valid driver's license (never obtained) following an accident at 9 p.m. Sunday.

Montaya, in a 1989 Oldsmobile, was backing up and hit a parked 1990 Pontiac Sunbird owned by Jennifer L. Burton of 506 W. Maple.

A **girl's bicycle** was found Monday at 858 E. Lincoln. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

An **abandoned moped** was towed Monday from Seventh St. and East Lincoln.

**Two vehicles were reported stolen** and recovered Monday.

Jerry and Shirley Eells, 701 S. Fifth St., reported their 1982 Chevrolet pickup truck had been stolen. Police later found it at county road 990E by the old railroad bed.

William C. Prather, 220½ W. Maple, reported his 1984 pickup was taken. It was later found ½-mile east of East Seminary along the old railroad bed.

**James and Debra Benjamin**, 717 E. Maple reported Monday that someone took a pair of glasses and a gold chain from their 1986 Plymouth van, parked at their home.

**Dean Walter**, 427 W. Lincoln, reported Monday that someone kicked in the side door of his garage and took two cases of beer.

**Juri Hohlman**, 520 W. Maple, reported Monday

See SUIT on other side

### *Suit* continued from other side

grants "maybe they should have the staff to handle it."

Regarding Clary's request for an opinion from the Attorney General, "an Attorney General's opinion is binding on nobody," he said, adding Clary's stance was like trying to "find a way to cut the baby in half."

### In the Hospital



#### Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

**June 20, 1996**

**Admitted:** Crystal Longfellow, Hoopeston.

**Discharged:** none.

**June 21, 1996**

**Admitted:** Jean Stephenson, Milford.

**Discharged:** Doris McCalla, Richard Swope and Crystal Longfellow, all of Hoopeston.

**June 22, 1996**

**Admitted:** none.

**Discharged:** Glenn Siville, Hoopeston.

**June 23, 1996**

**Admitted:** none.

**Discharged:** none.

### Weather



Mostly sunny today. High in the low to mid 80s. Tonight, fair. Low in the low 60s. Tomorrow, isolated thunderstorms. High near 86, low near 65.

### Wanted to Buy

**Junk Cars & trucks**

Will Pick Up

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**Sat. 9-4**

### Performance

**Diesel Service**

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¼ mile north of East Lynn

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**(800) 229-2417**

Greg Samet

Bob Marshall



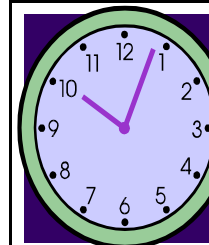
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## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2-bedroom at Honeywell Apt. complex. Lease and deposit. No pets. Contact Bob Totheroh, Wellington, (815) 984-4513.

### OFFICE FOR RENT

Large office for rent. \$300 mo./includes utilities. Call (217) 283-6713.

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Power Pack 2 pump and Doughboy sand filter for swimming pool. \$350. Call (217) 283-5408.  
176-180