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Wednesday, July 3, 1996

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City officials question proposed parental responsibility law

Some city officials are concerned about a request from the Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch that parents be held responsible for their children's transgressions.

"I have a couple concerns about the ordinance," said Alderman Mark Drollinger at Tuesday's city council meeting.

Those concerns include the cost of possibly defending the constitutionality of the law and the fact that the ordinance, like others, "might get buried in a book somewhere," he said.

"From what I understand, if we adopt this thing and if it goes to the Supreme Court, we have to pay legal fees," he said. "We've already got one frivolous lawsuit pending that we're going to have to pay for," he added, referring to a civil suit filed against the city by the Chronicle, alleging the city violated the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

A similar law in Belgium, which Neighborhood Watch members cited, has not been tested in the courts, but Drollinger suggested that may be because no arrests have been made by the part-time police department.

"We would have an ordinance against flying pigs, which would be great because as far as I can see, we don't have any flying pigs," he said.

City attorney Paul Manion also questioned the validity of the proposed ordinance, saying a similar law in Michigan is being challenged.

"It's absolutely unconstitutional to criminally punish parents," Manion said, adding the state has a statute allowing parents to pay up to \$2,500 in civil suits. The suggested ordinance "would create more problems than it would solve," Manion said.

Alderwoman Susan Comstock, who regularly attends Neighborhood Watch meetings, said the

group is not pushing for the ordinance, but wants something done to curb juvenile crime. "They're just frustrated," she said.

In a related matter, Alderman Drew Allen complained about children riding bicycles in the downtown area. "I've had a near miss and I've seen others have a near miss," he said. "One of these days, it's not going to be a miss. Somebody's going to get t-boned out there."

Manion said bicycle-riding is prohibited by ordinance and is up to the police to enforce.

In other action, the council:

☐ approved spending \$244,313 for a new fire truck and equipment. The truck, from Pierce Manufacturing of Wisconsin, will arrive in about nine months.

☐ approved Paul Tutwiler and Larry Howard as

See **OFFICIALS** on other side

City officials to fire 'cannonballs'

in civil suit filed by newspaper

Officials say they will file to have a civil suit against the city dismissed because of conflicting laws.

"The Chronicle filed a cannonball across our bow when they filed the suit," said Alderman Bill Goodwine. "I suggest we fire two cannonballs back: first, a motion to dismiss due to lack of substance and I suggest we file for sanctions against (Chronicle attorney Don) Craven for filing a frivolous lawsuit when the courts are so backlogged."


The Chronicle filed a civil suit June 21 alleging the city's revolving loan committee violated the Illinois

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Thank You

to all my customers for your support during the past my past two years at the Minute Man in Rossville. I hope to see all of you at my new position at Red Lobster in Danville.

This weekend, the only safe place to be is inside a theatre.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

PG-13

Wed.-Sun.-2, 4:30,7:30,10 Nightly 7:30 & 10

Lorraine Theatre

1-800-BEST PLACE 324 E. Main, Hoopeston

1996 Vermilion County Fair & Expo



Route 150 West, Danville, IL
Front gate admission - \$2/person
Under 12 - Free



Schedule of Events
Sunday, July 7
"FAMILY DAY"
Starts at 3 p.m.
Kids' games and Pig Races - FREE
Animal rides available
FREE ADMISSION TO GRANDSTAND FOR:
Mike Bishop with Sweet and Sassy
A musical show the whole family will enjoy
Monday, July 8
Team Roping Contest Horse Arena 7 p.m.
Queen Contest Grandstand 8 p.m.
Tuesday, July 9
Team Roping Contest Horse Arena 7 p.m.
Baby Contest Grandstand 6 p.m.
Talent Contest Grandstand 8 p.m.
time approx. - follows Baby Contest
Wednesday, July 10
TPA Sanctioned Tractor Pull Grandstand 7 p.m.
Thursday, July 11
Jr. Horsemanship, Halter and Performance Horse Arena 6:30 p.m.
Non Wing Sprint Cars and Grandstand Time Trials 7 p.m.
Street Stock Car Races Races 8 p.m.
Friday, July 12
Western Horse Show Horse Arena 6:30 p.m.
Modified, Sportsman Grandstand Time Trials 7 p.m.
Street Stock Car Races Races 8 p.m.
Saturday, July 13
Draft Horse, Pony and Mule (Halter) Horse Arena 11 a.m.
Draft Horse, Pony and Mule (Hitch) Horse Arena 5 p.m.
Dwarf Cars and Street Stock Car Races Grandstand Time Trials 7 p.m.
Races 8 p.m.
Car Show/Art Show 9 a.m.
Band - Bolero 8 p.m.

Officials continued from other side
auxiliary police officers.
□approved the 1996-97 appropriations ordinance of \$6,590,493.
□learned the street improvement program has about one week to completion. Drollinger, city street/alley committee chairman, said some residents have complained about the inconvenience, but "I think the inconvenience will be outweighed by the many years of new asphalt

★

Police News

★

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 9:30 p.m. Monday at 418 S. Fifth St.
John R. Abbott, 507 Chicago St., Rossville, backing his 1994 Ford pickup truck into a parked 1995 Dodge owned by Dwight L. Judy, route 3.
Ora J. Baer, Baer's Motel, reported Monday that someone took a battery from his 1978 Chevrolet pickup truck sometime over the weekend.
The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 5:17 p.m. Friday to a gas grill fire at 810 W. Penn.
Victoria L. Slichenmeyer, 23, of 412½ W. Maple, was arrested at 5:46 p.m. Monday, charged with battery on a complaint from Cathy Berry, 317 Front.
Berry alleged that Slichenmeyer battered her and threatened her with a pair of scissors.
Slichenmeyer surrendered herself to police and was

See CANNONBALLS on other side
Cannonballs continued from other side
Open Meetings Act when it went into closed session to discuss loan applications. The suit alleges the law does not allow a government body to enter closed session for that reason and seeks an injunction prohibiting the committee from continuing the practice.
City attorney Paul Manion said the city will seek to have the case dismissed because the Open Meetings Act is in conflict with the Small Business Development Act, which mandates loan applicant's financial information

be kept confidential. "It's obviously inconsistent," Manion said. "In a way, our office feels a little guilty for giving rise to the circumstances that gave rise to the suit."
Manion said discussion of financial information is similar to discussion of personnel issues, already allowed in closed session. He said he is "extremely optimistic" the courts will rule to allow the city to keep that information private.
Whether the city will seek action against Craven is undecided. Manion said he must complete research on previous decisions before he makes a recommendation to



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

CHILD CARE
RESPONSIBLE teenager to babysit in my country home. Must have driver's license. Call (217) 283-6219.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

July 1, 1996

Admitted: none.
Discharged: Rachel Colunga, Hoopeston;
Elizabeth Whiteman, Rankin.

Weather

Sunny today. High in the mid 80s. Tonight, clear, cool. Low in the mid 50s. Tomorrow, sunny. High near 85, low near 55. Friday, partly cloudy. High near 87, low near 65.

released on a notice to appear.
No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday in the 100 block of South Market.
Atlee Aaron Pittman of Delaware, Ohio, was backing a 1992 International truck and hit a parked 1994 Oldsmobile owned by Harriett Gaddis, 416 S. Second Ave.
Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported Tuesday.
An unidentified vehicle struck a parked 1989 Chevrolet Cavalier owned by Milton and Mary Ford, 726 E. Young, while the car was parked at their home.

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
J	A	R		A	T	O	N	S	T	O	P	S					
14	O	N	E	15	A	L	I	K	E	16	T	O	N	I	C		
17	B	E	T	18	G	A	P	19	E	20	R	I	N	21	P	A	
22	S	W	I	23	N	G	S	24	O	D	O	R	25	T	E	N	
26	R	O	Y	27	W	I	L	D	28	L	A	S	T				
29	F	E	E	D	31	M	I	L	E	32	F	O	X				
33	O	L	D	34	R	O	S	Y	35	R	A	D	I	36	S	H	
38	I	S	39	R	I	S	E	40	M	U	S	E	41	K	O		
42	L	E	43	M	O	N	S	44	B	E	S	T	45	R	I	P	
46	E	L	K	47	G	O	A	T	48	S	O	M	E				
49	D	50	O	L	L	51	T	R	O	T	52	T	A	T			
53	R	U	T	54	C	O	A	T	55	R	E	W	A	56	R	D	
58	A	T	59	Y	A	M	S	60	D	I	P	61	T	A	R		
62	F	E	63	W	E	R	64	P	65	H	O	N	E	66	E	V	A
67	T	R	E	A	T	68	S	I	N	G	E	69	D	E	W		