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Wednesday, Sept. 17, 1997

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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City council approves marijuana, paraphernalia ordinance

by TRACI MOYER
Special to Just the Facts

Hoopeston has strengthened its stand on possession of cannabis and paraphernalia with a new ordinance that will take effect immediately.

The ordinance, passed at Tuesday's city council meeting, will allow police officers to charge offenders with a violation of a city ordinance if they possess under 2.5 grams of cannabis or drug equipment.

The ordinance was the brainchild of Officer Roger Beaty who presented it to Valentine. He, in turn, reviewed the ordinance with Mayor Bob Ault prior to the meeting.

The new law "is sending out a message to anyone 17 and up that they are not going to walk away without a penalty," Valentine said.

Before the ordinance, officers could only confiscate marijuana or paraphernalia and take a chance that the state's attorney's office would file charges, said Investigator James Goodrum.

"There are so many cases of 2.5 grams or less that they never get prosecuted," Valentine said.

Goodrum said that, in more than 12 years, "there's been 100-150 if not a little more, that had either drugs or paraphernalia and nothing could be done."

Estimating the amount of drugs, Goodrum said 2.5 grams is equal to or less than the size of a golf ball, when loosely packed.

Violators convicted under the ordinance may face fines up to \$500. Perhaps more important than the fine is the

See ORDINANCE on other side

Rossville village board drops gas prices effective Sept. 1

ROSSVILLE—Village residents will pay less for natural gas, thanks to the village board.

The board voted Monday night to lower gas prices by 12 cents per therm, said Mayor Merv Smith.

The decrease will affect all three categories of usage - industrial, school and commercial/residential - Smith said.

The change is retroactive to Sept. 1, Smith said.

While prices were lowered, they may increase again when the temperature drops and the price the village pays for gas increases.

"If it goes up, we'll probably raise (prices)," Smith said.

Prices may also increase under a plan now being studied by village gas officials which would base the price of gas on its cost to the village, the amount of monthly overhead paid by the village and a fixed profit

margin.

Overhead costs run slightly more than \$10,000 monthly, but under the current system, village profits have varied. "This summer, even when costs were down, we only made about one percent profit," Smith said.

In unrelated business, trustees:

☐ sold a lot at 409 Stewart to Bob Moore for \$3,000.

☐ approved a temporary zoning change to put a trailer on a lot in the 400 block of McKibben.

Smith said a couple plan to fix up the trailer, then move it.

By ordinance, the trailer must be moved to at least 1.5 miles outside the village limits.

The couple has until Dec. 5 to move the trailer.

☐ learned the village clerk, collector, treasurer and auditor are working on an easy-to-read financial form to

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Court Dispositions



Sept. 4: Marvin Tull, Rankin, driving while license

Ordinance continued from other side

fact that officers and citizens will both feel more is being done to fight local drug use. "This is a step in the right direction, because we need all the help we can get," Goodrum said.

In other action, the council approved a \$15,000 revolving loan for Jesse and Diane Zarate.

The couple plan to reopen the Hoopeston Food Locker.

The loan will be at 8 percent interest for seven years and is personally guaranteed by a family member.

The business will open once the facility has been inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Zarate said. Minor repairs are also needed.

Once open, the food locker will use local stock. The couple plan to hire two to three part time employees, Zarate said.

In other business, the council:

Approved a \$91,000 expenditure from Motor Fuel Tax funds for street repairs.

Repairs will include installing handicapped ramps at intersections along Route 9 from South Fifth Ave. to South Fifth St.

Approximately 25 ramps are planned, with the cost to be shared between the city and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Alderman Mark Drollinger, chairman of the city street committee said repairs will be done because the city will receive 50 percent reimbursement from IDOT if they make the changes now. Drollinger said he was unsure if the state would continue its reimbursement program in the future.

Approved a new fire protection contract with Grant Township. The new deal expires in December 31 and replaces a contract that expired December 1996.

Learned Investigator Goodrum completed his Crime Technician certification and received a perfect score on the written test.

Hired Joe Garrett and Guadalupe Ramos as ambulance drivers. Both plan to receive emergency medical technician training.

suspended, uninsured, failure to yield, illegal transportation pretrial Nov. 5.

Brian Whitney, Rossville, DUI, disobeying stop sign, illegal transportation, pleaded not guilty; pretrial Dec. 1.

Michael Zarate, Hoopeston, driving while license revoked, failure to secure child, pleaded not guilty; pretrial Dec. 1.

Christopher Abbinett, Terre Haute, Ind., speeding, failed to appear; ex parte judgment.

Clayton Allison, Alvin, failure to yield, pleaded guilty, \$95 total, six months court supervision; failure to reduce speed, pleaded guilty, \$95 total, six months court supervision.

Suhail Alnaqib, Danville, disobeying stop sign, failed to appear; forfeited bond, ex parte judgment.

Jon Ball, Hoopeston, illegal squealing, pleaded guilty; \$95 total, three months court supervision.

Ives Baquerd, Skokie, disobeying stop sign, failed to appear; forfeited bond, ex parte judgment.

Brian Beaty, Hoopeston, to pay \$95, failed to appear.

Darlene Brewster, Hoopeston, paid \$95 in full.

Daniel Bridgman, Hoopeston, speeding, pleaded guilty, \$95 total; illegal transportation, pleaded guilty, \$95 total.

Angela Burke, Hoopeston, illegal transportation, pleaded guilty; \$95 total.

Jim Bushong, Hoopeston, speeding, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Police News



Ingrid M. Barracks, 16, of 515 E. Penn, was ticketed for disobeying a stop sign following an accident at 4:31 p.m. Monday.

Police said Barracks, in a 1991 Buick, stopped at South Second Ave. and Route 9, then entered the intersection where she hit a 1989 Buick driven by James E. Richards, 808 E. Maple.

Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 3:08 p.m. Monday to the city slab on Route 1 for a report of wood on fire.

Faustin Claderon, Bridgeview, speeding, continued to Oct. 2.

Mark Camner, Danville, speeding, pleaded guilty; \$95 total, three months court supervision.

Lawrence Card Jr., Bismarck, speeding, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Abel Cavazos, Rankin, illegal siren in vehicle, illegal transportation; failed to appear.

Emilio Cavazus, Rankin, no valid driver's license; failed to appear.

Timothy Coon, Wellington, \$372 due; failed to appear.

Norbert Cluver, Cissna Park, speeding, pleaded guilty, \$95 total, three months court supervision; disobeying stop sign, nolle pros.

Matt Denton, Rossville, illegal squealing, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Gesta DeBerry, Bloomington, disobeying stop sign, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Barbara Everhart, Hoopeston, failure to yield, bench trial Oct. 2; uninsured, nolle pros.

Timothy Farney, Ambia, Ind., illegal squealing, failure to notify Secretary of State; failed to appear.

Robert Glenn, Hoopeston, illegal sound system, failed to appear; ex parte judgment.

Brad Glover, Hoopeston, paid \$55 in full.

Jesus Gomez, Hoopeston, speeding, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Jaime Gonzalez, Hoopeston, speeding, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Patrick Henning, Hoopeston, uninsured; failed to appear.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Sept. 15, 1997

Admitted: Robert Dalton, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 85. Tonight, fair. Low 64. Tomorrow, sunny, cooler. High near 76, low near 55.



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Classifieds

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Hoopeston Migrant Headstart is now accepting applications for Family Services Coordinator. Must be fluent in written and spoken English and Spanish and have reliable, insured vehicle. Closing date: Sept. 22, 1997. For more information, call (815) 984-3706. EOE. 258-262

Title V part time job openings for individuals age 55 or better. Must meet income guidelines of \$9,800 or below and be actively looking for work or training. Call Hoopeston Multi Agency, (217) 283-5544. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Waitresses needed at Town & Country Restaurant, 107 E. Jones, Milford. Stop by or call (815) 889-5443. 260-266

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