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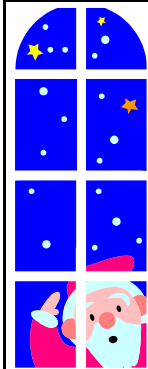
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Suggestion to change police hiring stalls on council floor

A move to give the Hoopeston city council more input in choosing police officers and chiefs was halted at Tuesday's meeting.

Alderman John Haughee, chairman of the city police committee, suggested a change in the ordinance, giving the committee authority to act with the police commission to make hiring decisions.

Currently, officers and chiefs are screened and interviewed by the Hoopeston Police Commission. Last year when former chief Carl Valentine was hired, interviews were opened to city council members.

Haughee said his suggestion stemmed from comments from another, unidentified alderman. After the meeting, Haughee said he will "chat with him and see where he's coming from."

Alderman Dave Borders agreed with Haughee. "I feel we should have a say in this," he said. "It's the biggest department we have here in the city. I feel we should have the final say."

Rossville-Alvin school budget shows \$99,000 shortfall

ROSSVILLE—School officials will have to dip into savings to meet this year's \$3.1 million budget.

The budget, placed on public display, was discussed at Monday's Rossville-Alvin school board meeting. The 1998-99 budget includes a \$99,000 shortfall, said Superintendent Phil Smith. "We're going to have to take some from our reserves," he said. Salaries and computer costs are the largest components of the financial picture, he said.

In other business, the board learned Smith, along with superintendents from the Armstrong, Potomac and Bismark-Henning districts will meet to "run some numbers on what it would be to run two districts," Smith said.

However, no aldermen made a motion to change the existing ordinance.

Haughee complained that the council has yet to meet the department's newest officer, Billy Pryor, and that Valentine's resignation earlier this month "caught us off-guard."

While some officials favor council input into the selection process, interim Chief Joe Gaffney said a change might deter candidates from applying for the chief's position. "If you get good candidates and they feel politics is involved, you're going to lose good candidate because they don't want to work under politics," he said. "That's my feeling."

In unrelated action, the council:

□ approved buying a 1998 ambulance from McCoy Miller for \$67,458. A \$2,000 trade-in was given for one

See COUNCIL on other side

Council continued from other side

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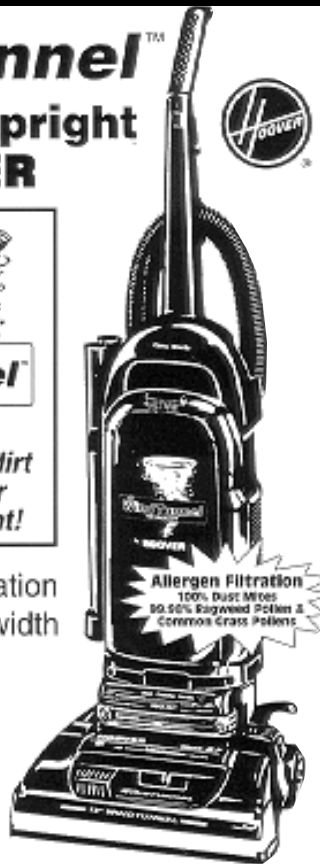
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Police News



The watch reported stolen Monday from Subway, 115 E. Main, was returned to the owner Tuesday.

Carol Hicks, 646 E. McNeil, reported Tuesday that a box of checks was taken from her mailbox.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday at Seventh St. and East Penn.

Police said Andrew M. Linares, 511 W. Main, in a

1995 Dodge, and Amber N. Morgeson, 313 E. McCracken, were eastbound on Penn when Linares applied his brakes, then backed into Morgeson.

Juan Delacruz of the Stokely farm plant reported Wednesday that someone spray painted graffiti on the farm equipment garage.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident

at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at South Fourth St. and East Maple.

Police said Treina K. Bailey, 9483E 3700N Rd., Rossville, hit a manhole cover on South Fourth. The cover, sticking up in the air because of construction, damaged the entire undercarriage of Bailey's 1998 Dodge pickup truck.



Court Dispositions



Aug. 6: Tonya Irvin, Hoopeston, criminal damage, pleaded not guilty, trial Sept. 17; battery, trespassing nolle pros.

of the city's older ambulances.

~~Funds will come from reserves saved to purchase a~~ new ambulance, said Borders, city ambulance committee chairman.

Learned extra work has been done as part of the street repair project, including Fourth St. to East Penn near the American Legion and also by Maple School.

Resident Bill Orr said he was unhappy that bricks were covered on Fourth St. between Main and Penn. "I thought that was something of a waste and that that material could've been put to better use," he said. "That was one of the better block streets in Hoopeston."

Alderman Mark Drollinger, streets/alleys committee chairman, said Orr's comments were the first negative ones he heard. "I've heard nothing but positive feedback," he said.

Heard from Tom Able, president of State Management, Inc., a Savoy-based company managing apartments at 424 E. Wyman. Country Manor (formerly Hoopeston I Apartments) has undergone a \$150,000 rehabilitation, he said.

An open house will be held at the complex in late September or early October. "We're very, very pleased with what we've done so far," Able said.

Apartments to the west of Country Manor are in foreclosure, but will be under State Management's care until the process is complete, probably in late October.

Chay Kirby, Lawrenceburg, Ind., deceptive practice; failed to appear.

Nathan Longfellow, Rantoul, charge not listed; failed to appear.

Sonia Leavell, Hoopeston, charge not listed; failed to appear.

Teri O'Neal, Hoopeston, battery, pleaded guilty; \$75, costs.

Tosha Piper, Hoopeston, trespassing, battery, nolle

pros; criminal damage, pleaded not guilty, trial Sept. 17.

Lisa Rocha, Hoopeston, criminal damage, pleaded not guilty, trial Sept. 17; trespassing, battery nolle pros.

Obituaries

PETTICE – David G. Pettice, 56, of Alvin, died at 3:50 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1998, at Provena United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, Danville. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at the Morrison Funeral Home, Bismarck. Burial will be in Mann's Chapel Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Aug. 18

Admitted: Florence McCalla, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow. Highs near 90, lows near 69.

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