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Secretary of State seeks new home for city driver's station

Hoopeston's driver's license facility will get a new home next year.

Ron King, who has leased the current facility at 925 W. Elm, to the Illinois Secretary of State's office, notified state officials on June 6 that the lease would be terminated in September, said Randy Nehrt, deputy press secretary to Secretary of State Jesse White. The Secretary of State's office will exercise a 90-day hold-over clause, extending its lease until Dec. 31.

The driver's license office has been in its current location since 1990; the five-year lease would have kept the office there until June 30, 2001.

Nehrt said the state prefers to lease buildings because "it just works out easier through the budget process in the state to lease rather than to buy." However, he said, a lease review committee appointed by White is looking into the viability and cost savings of purchasing, rather than leasing buildings. The committee's recommendations will not affect the Hoopeston office, he said.

Two options are available: finding an existing

building the state could lease for the driver's license station or leasing a newly-constructed site. "We want the best office location we can find but we have certain time frame to meet," Nehrt said. A new lease inked between a property owner and the state would be for five years also.

Stripping Hoopeston of its driver's license facility is not an option, Nehrt said. "I believe it's our intention to keep a facility in Hoopeston," he said. Several years ago, the Secretary of State's office looked into closing the Hoopeston site. Intervention by State Rep. Bill Black (R-Danville) kept the office open.

Criteria for the new office include "being accessible to residents at the best price for the taxpayers," Nehrt said. The current facility has 1,395 square feet of office space plus a parking area, motorcycle testing area and commercial driver testing accessibility. The state pays \$11.34 per square foot or \$15,819 annually, he said.

The Secretary of State's office has advertised in local papers for a new home and has received "a handful of responses," Nehrt said.

Hoopeston mapping program gets boost from city council

The Hoopeston City Council gave a shot in the arm Tuesday to a new program.

In a 5-2 vote, aldermen approved a \$4,000 contribution to a mapping program that will identify goals and work towards achieving them.

The program is offered through Western Illinois University in conjunction with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.

The city's contribution will allow the group's steering committee to pay the program fee and get the ball rolling, said Alderwoman Susan Comstock, who requested the funds.

Alderman Bill Goodwine suggested that since the council on July 5 approved spending \$3,500 on a similar tax increment financing assistance program, that the city provide matching funds for contributions made by the Hoopeston Industrial Corporation and Chamber of Commerce.

However, Comstock said matching other donations would delay the start of the mapping program. "We need to move forward," she said. "If we're looking a the

See MAPPING on other side

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- Drawings for prizes

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Champions

The Lions Club ball team took season and playoff championships this vear in the Little League Majors. Pictured are, front (from left) Jordan Stipp, Alex Hesser, Anthony Hornbeck, Kyle Franklin, Patrick Sheppard; second row, Zach Sage, William Walker, Marcus Davis, Michael Silver, Scott Cornelius; back row, head coach Hank Hornbeck and assistant coaches Duane Sheppard and Dave Cornelius. Team member Scott Cornelius was named Home Run King.

Photo contributed

Mapping continued from other side

big picture, I don't think \$4,000 is a lot of money."

Leon Polson, who is spearheading the program, echoed Comstock's sentiments, saying mapping has been considered for two years. "If we put it on the back burner, in two years, we're going to be where we are now," he said. The project will also solicit funds from business, industry and individuals, Polson said.



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The steering committee is seeking volunteers to assist with the project. Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to call Lourdine Florek at Just the Facts. 283-9348.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital July 18

Admitted: Jean Smith, Hoopeston. **Discharged**: none.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 78. Tonight, chance of showers. Low 63. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, chance of morning showers. High 77, low 60.

For the current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston** Weather Line at (217) 283-6221.

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The Village of Rossville is now accepting applications, with resume, for full time and part time police officers. Completion of PTI or Part Time Academy preferred. Applications will be accepted at the Municipal Office through August 7th. 199-210

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