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Nuisance law proposal targets property owners, managers

Landlords and property managers who allow criminal activity to occur on their property may face legal problems in Hoopeston if a new ordinance is enacted.

A suggested public nuisance ordinance was suggested at Tuesday's council meeting by Alderman Rod Kaag. If approved, the ordinance will be modeled after a similar ordinance recently passed in Danville, as well as a state statute.

Under the proposal, property owners or managers who knowingly allow criminal activity on their properties may be fined from \$200 to \$1,000. Each day a violation occurs would be considered a separate offense. Other penalties may include closing the property for a minimum of 30 days or other appropriate remedy.

Violations may be cited if owners or managers fail

to improve the property to decrease crime by such things as making improvements to real estate and installing lighting to enhance security.

Under the proposal, violators will be notified in person or by certified mail.

The state statute, enacted in 1985, allows owners or managers who knowingly maintain a public nuisance to be cited for crimes such as pandering, prostitution and the cannabis and controlled substance acts.

At the state level, the crime is a class A misdemeanor for a first offense and class 4 felonies for subsequent offenses.

While local violators could be charged under the state statute, the decision to prosecute would be left to the Vermilion County State's Attorney's office, said city attorney Jim Spiros. By enacting an ordinance, prosecution would be done locally, he said.

Hoopeston attorney to be featured in 2001 Who's Who

Hoopeston attorney Paul T. Manion will be featured in the 12th edition of Marquis' *Who's Who in American Law*, which will be published later this year.

The book includes biographical data regarding prominent members of the legal profession and is affiliated with the Marquis' *Who's Who in America* publications.

Manion is senior partner in the firm Manion, Devens, McFetridge & Spiros, with offices in Hoopeston and Danville. He is also a member of the Board of Managers of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and has chaired and lectured at many teaching seminars for that organization. He has also taught or lectured at Danville Area Community College, Illinois State University, Roosevelt University and most

recently the University of Illinois Medical School.

Manion will be among prominent Illinois attorneys contributing to a test on Illinois trial practice to be published later this year.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in the March 5 issue that Daryl Fink was charged with criminal damage to property. According to Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger, the person who committed the crime was a person claiming to be Fink.

Fink was not charged with any crime in connection with the incident.

Just the Facts regrets the error.

Special Event Coming
St. Patrick's Day

Hats, balloons, green-haired Beanie Kids, leprechauns, ribbons, shamrock plants, framed Irish calligraphy, parking signs

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

Captain Chicken 

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Serving chicken or roast pork loin, potato, salad, homemade rolls.

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American Legion
502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

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Hear John McElhaney play starting at 6 p.m. March 9, 16, 23 & 30
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Briefly

Tiny Tots

“The Three Little Pigs” is the theme of this week’s Tiny Tots story program. The program will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Hoopeston Public Library children’s room.

Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Parents’ Night Out

Parents are invited to attend a special dinner meeting

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at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 15 at Honeywell School Dean Dillon, youth services educator at The Pavilion in Champaign will speak on “Parenting a Child with an Attention Deficit Disorder.”

The meeting is sponsored by Maple, Honeywell and John Greer parent/teacher organizations and the Hoopeston Junior Women’s Club. The club will serve chili at the meeting.

This is a “parents only” meeting. Students are asked not to attend.

The program is free but reservations are necessary and due by March 9. Reservations may be made by calling Rosellen at (217) 283-6666.

Drawing winner

Ed “Mudcat” Jones was the winner of the Hoopeston Jaycees 50/50 drawing held Saturday at the Distinguished Service Award banquet. He received \$297.

Proceeds from the drawing will be used for Post Prom.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
March 6

Admitted: Jean Alderson, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Robert Taylor, Dolores Brown, Brandon Young.

Weather



Mostly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow with a chance of flurries. Highs near 35, lows near 20.

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

North Fork Conservation Club



Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

At the club

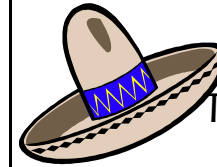
Fish, chicken, shrimp & clam dinners
plus 2 sides **\$5.50**

Traditions from the Heart

1/2 Price Sale

Thursday & Friday

On everything except fresh flowers
111 S. Chicago, Rossville (217) 748-6245



Tacos

Thursdays at the
VFW

Have been cancelled until
further notice

Fourth Ave. & West Orange, Hoopeston

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Help wanted part time evenings at BJ’s Pump. See Andy 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

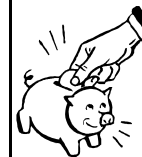
Magic Chef gas stove. White. Very good condition. (217) 283-7207. Will return calls.

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