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Hoopeston City Council approves '03 road repair projects

Two major road repair projects were approved by the Hoopeston City Council Tuesday night.

Market Street is slated for new curbs and gutters from Route 9 to Penn, at an estimated cost of more than \$340,000 and Hospital Road from Rt. 9 to Landfill Road will be resurfaced at an estimated cost of less than \$60,000.

The city has received a \$30,000 Legislative Add-On grant to pay part of the Hospital Road project, said Jay Dingee, engineer with Sodemann & Associates of Champaign.

A \$240,000 grant will help pay for the Market Street project, Dingee said, adding the project calls for milling and resurfacing edges along the route, creating curbs of either 5 or 6 inches and minimal sidewalk work to make them handicapped-accessible at intersections.

The Market Street project is expected to be bid in June, with a contract awarded in July, Dingee said.

In unrelated action, the council learned Hoopeston has received its fourth Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) housing rehabilitation grant.

The grant, of \$373,000 plus another \$60,000

from the Illinois Housing Development Authority, is expected to provide repairs for 14 homes in an area bounded by Seminary, Front, McCracken and Fifth St., said Scott Rose of the Champaign County Regional Planning office.

Rose has worked with Hoopeston for all of its housing rehabilitation grants from the initial one in 1994-95. The city has received \$1.3 million in housing rehabilitation grants during that period.

Grant funds pay for structural repairs, increased energy efficiency and cosmetic repairs to the homes of low-income residents.

Thirty-three people applied for the 2000 housing rehabilitation program; five homes were selected for the \$312,000 project, Rose said at a public hearing before the council meeting. The 2002 grant, which will be paid in early to mid-February, is expected to provide repairs for more homes due to less expensive costs per home, he said.

In other action, the council finalized the city's drug policy after members of the Hoopeston Fire Department signed their agreements. Firemen had concerns about some aspects of the policy, which were revamped

Oldest form of government is neighbors helping neighbors

Grant Township Supervisor Bill Boose wants to live the motto emblazoned on pamphlets about township government: "The People Next Door."

"I would hope, and it's a goal of mine, that we're a government of good neighbors," said Boose.

Boose outlined the segments and duties of township government at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Township government in the United States dates back to 1636. In Illinois, the constitution of 1848

allowed voters to form township government. Of Illinois' 102 counties, 85 operate under the township form of government with 1,433 townships serving more than 8 million state residents.

Townships are required by law to perform three functions, Boose said. Those are general assistance, property assessment and road and bridge maintenance.

General assistance provides emergency relief, such as food or money for people in need. "It's known

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Hoopeston Lions Club

Pancake &



**Tacos are
back!**

Thursday

3-8 p.m.

\$1 beer

V.F.W.

Hoopeston Regional Health Center is currently recruiting for a Medical Records Clerk/Backup Transcriptionist to work in our Medical Records Department. This is a full time position that works primarily Monday-Friday, with rotating holidays. Primary duties will include filing, copying, transcription and other general clerical duties. Qualifications include ability to type, good recordkeeping skills. Previous related office experience a plus. Please apply in person at Hoopeston Regional Health Center, 701 E. Orange St., Hoopeston, IL 60942.



Hoopeston Jaycees

Pancake & Sausage Day


Saturday, Jan. 11

Wally's Pub (Soon to be Jill's Grill)
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Briefly

Registrations due


Youngsters who plan to participate in the Hoopeston Youth Organization basketball program must have their registrations turned in by Jan. 10.

Registrations may be taken to the Hoopeston Area Superintendent's office.


Tiny Tots

"Thumbelina" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program 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.



Police News



A Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that someone took a plastic tub of Christmas and Halloween items and a ceramic goose in a Christmas hat and dress. The goose was later found and returned.

The burglary happened in the 200 block of North Market.

Cases of canned goods was taken sometime basically

See NEIGHBORS on other side

Neighbors continued from other side

as the last chance," he said.

The township assessor sets property values for all property in the township. However, Boose stressed, the assessor, including Grant Township Assessor Susie Shepherd, does not set taxes. Those are set by taxing bodies which request a portion of property taxes.

Maintenance of township roads and bridges - or at least those that do not fall within the jurisdiction of another governing body - are the responsibility of the township highway commissioner. Commissioner Jim Crouch has the unique position of being in charge of the Illinois township with the most roads with "right at 120 road miles," Boose said.

The township is governed by a four-person

board. The Grant Township board includes Connie Wilson, Steve Willard, Dale Lithgow and Rich Thompson. Donna Lithgow serves as township clerk and Carol Boose is the township caseworker.

Some townships provide other services, including those for youth and senior citizens. Grant Township does not provide those because many are provided through the Hoopeston Multi Agency. "We look at them as our sister agency," Boose said.

This year, township officials plan to put money into senior and youth services and economic development because the state will allow townships to use surplus general assistance funds for other purposes, Boose said. This is the second time since 1986 that the state has allowed a transfer, he said.


Township government is cost-effective. For all services provided, this year's levy is about \$450,000. "I feel really good this year about our town levy," he said.

Boose served as a township trustee for 16 years before being elected supervisor two years ago. A former

Obituaries

BOARDMAN - Dennis Harvey Boardman, 53, of Peoria, AZ., died at 7:55 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6, 2003 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Phoenix, AZ. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Private family visitation will be from noon to 1 p.m. In accordance with his wishes, his body will be cremated after the services. Memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 58. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 35. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 38, low 22.

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

Open House

The Rev. and Mrs. Lyle Curtis will be honored for 40 years in the ministry with an open house from 2-5 p.m. Saturday at the First Church of the Nazarene, 402 E. Honeywell. The public is invited to attend.

Classifieds

ADULT CARE

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3-9

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3-7

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3-16

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7-13

AUCTIONS

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