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Hoopeston council gives school district a financial boost

Hoopeston Area schools is getting a financial boost from the city.

At Tuesday's council meeting, aldermen approved giving \$15,000 of tax increment financing (TIF) money to the district for summer repairs at John Greer Grade School.

A second issue concerning the schools may not fare as well. The school district's hope for an abatement on utility taxes may not be realized.

Hoopeston Area has asked to be exempt from the city's utility tax, which costs the district about \$12,000 annually. Flint spoke with an Illinois Municipal League attorney who said many cities do not waive the tax for schools because it is the only way cities can get money from schools, which do not pay sales or property tax.

Flint asked the council to consider the request for possible action at a later time.

Rossville officials approve TIF district to help local economy

ROSSVILLE—Village officials hope a tax increment financing (TIF) district will boost the local economy.

Trustees took the first step Monday, unanimously approving forming a TIF district and meeting with economic developers Robert Vancil of LeRoy and Ron Corke of Watseka.

"The idea of TIF is to create housing," said Mayor Terry Prillaman. "Housing creates people. People create students which the school district desperately needs."

A TIF might not help only schools, but the village coffers, as well, Vancil said. State sales records show that while most communities receive about \$100 per person in sales tax, Rossville receives only \$20 per

In unrelated action, the council:

- increased police department longevity pay. Officers with five to 10 years of service will receive five percent of the \$19,000 base salary. Officers with 10-15 years will receive 10 percent and officers with 20 plus years will get 15 percent.
- approved bids, including \$14,459 from Turf Professional Equipment Co., Springfield, for a dirt mover for the cemetery; \$13,200 from Jackson Construction for roof repairs to the ambulance building; \$2,484 from Double Y Sales of Cissna Park for a parks mower; \$5,316 for a new boring machine for the street/alley department; lagoon spraying from T& L Lawn Care for spraying at the lagoon; and will purchase a new police car for \$19,960.
- changed residency requirements for firemen to include Grant Township but left requirements for other employees to the city limits.

person. "You understand what kind of a press that puts on a city budget," he said.

The village should meet requirements of a TIF district, Vancil said. For example, to qualify under conservation, half the houses in the proposed district must be at least 35 years old. According to the 2000 census, Vancil said, slightly more than 80 percent of Rossville homes meet the criteria.

TIF was designed to generate improvements in communities and Vancil suggested focusing on residential improvements, including building moderate and upscale single family homes, a small subdivision and an independent living complex for senior citizens.

Street superintendent Randy Lusk has talked with three contractors who are willing to build spec

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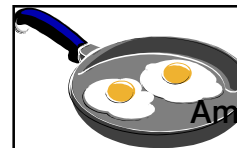
221 Bank St. (217) 283-7733 Rtes. 1&9 283-9723

221 E. Main, Wellington (815) 984-3130

FREE COMPUTER CLASS

Hoopeston Area C.U.S.D. #11 is offering a Basic Computer Information class. The class will cover basic computing information including internet and email basics. The class will meet from 4-6 p.m. beginning Monday, May 12 and May 14, 19 and 21 at John Greer Elementary School Debbie McBride is the instructor. Class size is limited to 15 participants.

To register, call (217) 283-6667.



Rossville
American Legion

Sunday

Hoopeston Rock Service

Rock: ¾" 1¼, 2". Plus landscape rock, pea gravel, sand, road pack.

Delivery/spreading available. Hours by appointment.

Rich Stipp, owner

(217) 283-5492

(217) 304-0884



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Healthcare Education Opportunity

Certified Nurse Aide (C.N.A.) Program

starts June 2, 2003

Classes held weekdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. for 3½ week at Hoopeston Regional Health Center

Applications accepted through May 15 and are available at:

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

701 E. Orange, Hoopeston, IL

Briefly


One-act play

The Hoopeston Area High School Thespian Society will present the one-act play "Women Must Weep" at 6p.m. Thursday in the high school auditorium. The presentation is part of the Fine Arts Festival. Admission is free.


"Women Must Weep", by Mary Orr, tells the story of how seven women deal with life at home while their sons and husbands are off fighting in The Civil War. The production stars Ashley Beauvois, Kelsi Benjamin, Ashley Danner, Kelsey Smith, Ali Waite, Andrea Wilson, and Allison York.

Hospital anniversary

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a community celebration.



Police News



Two drivers were ticketed after an accident at 12:33 p.m. Monday at Fifth St. and East Main. Police said Myna J. Moore, 23, of 503 N. Seventh Ave., was westbound on Main, turned on Fifth and hit a 1989 Buick driven by Cortney A. Hoskins, 21, of 824 E. Wyman. Moore was ticketed for improper lane usage homes in the village if lots can be found, Prillaman said.

See TIF on other side

and illegal transportation of alcohol. Hoskins was cited for no valid driver's license.

Domingo Arredondo, 26, of 41 Parkview Court, was arrested at 2:35 p.m. Monday at Parkview Court.

Arrendondo, wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear, was taken to the

TIF continued from other side

To accommodate that, the board may want to consider annexing property, Corke said. By signing pre-annexation agreements, property owners will be assured that their property will not be subject to village taxes unless it is used for the TIF program, he said.

Under TIF, property tax rates would be frozen at the level they are at when the district is approved. Increases in taxes through improvements or increased equalized assessed valuation would be paid into a TIF fund. That money would be used for related expenses and to offset capital expenses for things like school improvements.

While some critics say schools are hurt by TIF, Vancil said without the program, there would be no improvements and no increase in value. "One hundred percent of nothing is nothing," he said.

Rossville will pay Vancil and Corke \$8,000 up

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Having out of town visitors? We have two brand new 1 bedroom furnished apartments available by the night or by the week. TV, phone, utilities included. (217) 283-7996.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom, 1 bath in Hoopeston. Appliances furnished. \$400/ mo., \$400 security deposit. Available immediately. Call (815) 432-6081

AUCTIONS

Thinking of having an auction?
Go to www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com or call (217) 748-6289!


CHILD CARE

Responsible 13-year-old would like summer babysitting job. Please call Eliza at (217) 283-7068.

HELP WANTED

Food Sanitation Position: Hoopeston Regional Health Center is recruiting for a part time food service worker. Responsibilities include setting up meal service for residents, working in dishroom and other dietary services duties. Hours are primarily 5 a.m.-1:30 p.m.. Some flexibility required for evening. Must be willing to work every other weekend. Apply in person at

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. Highs 72, lows 58.

For current weather conditions, call (217) 283-

An old-fashioned picnic in the park will be held from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10. Free hot dogs, pulled pork, baked beans, chips and cake will be served, along with games and prizes.

For more information, call Charlene Drawdy at

Come See!

Want the prettiest hanging basket or The biggest porch or patio geranium for Mother?

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Hoopeston Regional Health Center, 701 E. Orange St., Hoopeston. HRHC offers a full range of benefits and great working environment.

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start is accepting applications for Teachers and Custodian.

Teachers must have a Bachelor or Associate degree in Early Childhood or a degree in a related field with 18 hours in Early Childhood. \$11.49-\$18.31 salary range.

Custodian: prefer prior experience. Salary range \$6.94-\$10.41.

Please mail applications to: Hoopeston Migrant Head Start, Box 136, Wellington IL 60973 or fax to (815) 889-4500 by Thursday, May 8, 2003. EOE

HOUSES FOR RENT

Available immediately: 2 bedroom, 1 bath in Hoopeston. \$350/ mo., \$350 deposit. (217) 748-6765

LOST & FOUND

Lost: male Pomeranian, about 7 lbs. tan colored. Named Squirt. Last seen April 30 in Greater Hoopeston. If found, call 283-7426

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