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Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Alderman to step down April 30 after 26 years on council

Alderman John Haughee will resign April 30.

Haughee announced his resignation at Tuesday night's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

In a letter to the council and mayor, Haughee said the date marks the midpoint of his seventh term and his 26th consecutive year as Ward 2 alderman.

"I've been concerned about this matter for some time," Haughee told the council. After marrying and moving to Indiana last year, Haughee said he planned to spend four days each week in Hoopeston but that some weeks, he has been unable to fulfill that goal.

Indicating that Mayor Chalmers Flint had addressed the issue with him, Haughee said residency requirements are "a hazy area" because he still owns property and pays taxes in Hoopeston and still has furniture at his home. However, after evaluating the situation, "it was time to make that decision," he said.

Praising Haughee for his dedication, Flint said he agreed with the decision. "It's only fair," he said. "I agree because we had some concerns there."

In waiting until the end of April, Haughee said the mayor elected April 5 will be able to select his replacement.

Aldermen were hesitant to accept Haughee's resignation. Rod Kaag made the motion. "I don't want to but I think we have to," he said. Alderman Kevin Davis voted against accepting Haughee's resignation.



HAUGHEE



MANION

Davis was also the sole dissenting vote in accepting the resignation of city attorney Bill Nelson.

Nelson, in a letter to the council, stated his last day will be March 1.

The board then unanimously appointed Brian Manion as new city attorney. Manion, who practices with his

father, Paul, received his law license Nov. 4, 2004 after graduating from Southern Illinois University College of Law. He is a 1997 graduate of Hoopeston Area High School and received his bachelor of science degree in finance from the University of Illinois in 2001.

Manion's appointment was approved 6-0.

In unrelated discussion, the council:

- learned bids for a new fire department door will be opened at noon Friday.
- heard a reminder from Kaag that residents should not put trash out more than 24 hours before scheduled pick up.
- heard from Flint about the Willdon Building. A person who seemed interested in the building visited Hoopeston and was expected to return a few days after the initial visit but did not because of a snowstorm, Flint said.

Alderman Bill Goodwine said he has been in contact with a professor from Purdue University who holds seminars for those in the call center industry. The professor has offered his assistance in finding a tenant for the building. "He was optimistic that he could help

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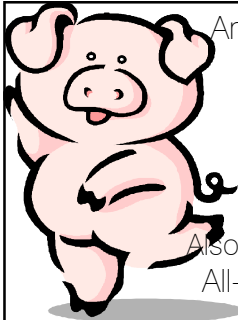
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Hoopeston Area High School
Saturday, Feb. 26
Matinee with
CCD IMPACT TEAM 2 p.m.
\$13 advance, \$15 at door
Evening with
HARVEST CITY BOYS 7 p.m.
\$16 advance, \$18 at door
Call (217) 283-5492 or email
rstipp1949@yahoo.com
All seats reserved

Morning coffee time benefits local charitable organizations

Some local morning people who gather for coffee six mornings each week are jumpstarting not only their days, but some charitable organizations, too.

Since November, group of up to 13 people have started meeting at the Masonic Lodge on Rt. 9 for their morning coffee. Members give a freewill offering for their coffee and each month, the group gives \$100 to a charitable group, said Ralph “Peewee” Drollinger, one of the java junkies.

In December, the Head Start program received the donation and in January, the Hoopeston Multi Agency was the recipient.

“We’re going to try to do this every month,” Drollinger said.

The group, comprised of seven Masons and six non-members, gets together anywhere from 6:30-9 a.m. Monday through Saturday. “Anybody can come in,” Drollinger said. “We haven’t turned anybody away.”

The coffee drinkers have an official shelf, made by one of the members, to hold their morning mugs. Nearly all the coffee drinkers have a cup

Police News

Jason W. Irvin, 31, of 518 S. Third Ave., turned himself in to police at 11:36 a.m. Monday. Irvin, wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear for status check, was released on \$1,000 cash bond.

Eric R. Bell, 20, of Ambia, Ind., was ticketed for operating an uninsured motor vehicle after an accident at 11:50 a.m. Monday.

Police said Bell was southbound on County Road 2400 East and tried to turn when he skidded into the ditch.

No injuries were reported.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 39. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 19. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 35, low 21.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

hanging from the shelf, Drollinger said.

The group has met for coffee for several years, starting at the old Marty K’s, then Mr. L’s. From there, they moved to the Family Restaurant, Burger King at the former Shell station, Pla-Mor Lanes and the Junction Café.

The link between most of their watering holes is that they’re no longer open, a fact that made their appearance at the Hoopeston McDonald’s just a little scary for manager Sara Rhodes. “She said ‘get out of here,’” Drollinger said, laughing. It was then that the group opted to meet at the Masonic home.

The idea of using the coffee fund for good came from Worshipful Master John Birch, Drollinger said, adding the coffee drinkers vote each month on which organization gets the funds.

Any organization interested in receiving a \$100 donation is asked to contact the Masons, either by attending a morning coffee or by sending a letter of request to Star Lodge 709, P.O. Box 253, Hoopes-ton, IL 60942.

The Masons have other charities that they fund through various means, including national Masonic projects and local groups such as the hospital, nursing home, food cupboard and library. The group

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