

# Fireman axed after 13 years with Hoopeston department

A long-time Hoopeston fireman, let go from the department, asked the Hoopeston City Council for a waiver of the ordinance under which he was terminated. Layton Seggebruch attended Tuesday night's Hoopeston City Council meeting to request a waiver of the ordinance that states firemen must live in Grant Township. Seggebruch said he moved to the Cissna Park area a few years ago and three years ago was given a verbal waiver of the ordinance, which has been rescinded.

While he lives outside the township, Seggebruch, who owns LS Diesel, said he works in Hoopeston from eight to 12 hours a day. Several firemen work out of town during the day and are not available to respond to fires, he said.

Former Fire Chief Jim Pajor spoke on Seggebruch's behalf. "He knows what he's doing," Pajor said. "I think it's a little hasty to reject him. He's in town and wants to do the job." Pajor also said Seggebruch has purchased some of his own equipment to serve on the volunteer department.

Alderman Brandon Hamilton, fire committee chairman, said the ordinance is "kind of black and white" and said there were other concerns about Seggebruch, including the number of calls to which he has responded and department morale. He said Seggebruch was granted the verbal waiver to get 10 years with the department and make the firemen's honor roll but that Seggebruch had to turn in city-owned equipment.

Alderman Bill Crusinberry called Seggebruch a "loyal servant" but Mayor Bill DeWitt said the ordinance must be obeyed or "why do we have ordinances?"

In unrelated business, a discussion of alcohol issues was again on tap as the council heard from residents opposed to granting Monical's Pizza a license. "It's nice to know you can go someplace in town for pizza and not have to worry about the alcohol problem," said the Rev. Earl Martin, youth minister at the First Baptist Church. He asked the council to "help Monical's make the right decision...actually you can make it for them."

Linda Means praised Hoopeston's many family activities but said serving alcohol at the restaurant sends a bad message to young people, giving a "tacit suggestion to a teenager that liquor is ok."

The council took no action on the restaurant's request which was made at the Feb. 7 meeting.

In related action, an increase in the number of liquor licenses available in the city was not acted upon. Alder-See HOOPESTON on other side

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celebration of Life Benefit for **Sandy Trumann Crothers** Saturday, Feb. 25 Ruby Nell's 225 E. Main, Hoopeston **Chili Dinner by the Crusinberrys** 4-6 p.m. Live music by **Generation II and The Hands** 6 p.m.-? 50/50 Drawing Raffles for Digital Camera with printer, portable DVD Player, Gift Basket Sandy was recently diagnosed with liver and bone cancer and has no health insurance. All proceeds to Sandy and her family. To make a donation, call Stephanie Reffett, 283-4921 or Alisa Vogel, 443-2542.

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### **Police News**

Two people were arrested at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday at Hoopeston Area High School, 615 E. Orange.

### **Obituaries**

**DEAN**—Larry A. Dean, 48, of Hoopeston died at 12:37 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2006 at home. Arrangements are incomplete at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home.

**DANNER**—Harriet J. Danner, formerly of Hoopeston died Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2006 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Private family graveside rites will be Friday at Rossville Cemetery. Cremation rites will be accorded. Wolfe Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Hoopeston, was in charge of arrangements.

#### *Hoopeston* continued from other side

woman Nancy Stipp, civic committee chairman, recommended not to increase the number. After the meeting, Stipp said she made the recommendation because she does not believe the city needs more liquor licenses. "Then it becomes how many and who gets one," she said. "That would open up a can of worms and I don't want to go into it."

Crusinberry said one AAA liquor license is currently available and has been for some time. The classification is for a restaurant that has no bar area, he said.

In unrelated action, the council: heard from Grant Township Road Commissioner Gary Weinard that the township hopes to get water and sewer service at its new facility by tapping into lines on property east of its new

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**Spencer L. Edwards**, 17, of 726 N. Sixth St., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after officers allegedly found paraphernalia in his vehicle. He was released on a notice to appear.

**John T. Morgenroth**, 17, of 318 E. Washington, was charged with possession of cannabis. He was also released on a notice to appear.

**Michael A. Mills**, 20, of 619 W. Elm #3, was arrested at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday in the 600 block of East Elm. He was charged with illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor and was released on a notice to appear.

A 32-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Wednesday that someone took her son's red and chrome BMX style bike from her front porch in the 600 block of East McNeil.

#### building on County Road 1550.

Weinard had asked the city to check into running water and sewer lines to the building but Crusinberry, water/sewer committee chairman, said the cost to do so would be at least \$30,000 if city and township workers did the work and \$60,000 if it were done by outside help.

#### Weather

Breezy today. High 44. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 22. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 45, low 27.

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