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Just the Facts®

Monday, July 9, 2007

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Agreements in place but motel start could be a year away

Agreements allowing Hoopeston to cap wells on three properties adjacent to the site of a planned motel are in place but it could be a year before construction begins.

At Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Mayor Bill DeWitt announced that agreements between the city and the property owners - including Terry Buhmester, Allen Decker and Gene Beckner, and Hooterville Broadcasting - have been signed. "It looks like we're in a position now to start moving forward," he said.

However, forward movement will be slow as the city must submit a remediation report on the capping to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Getting approval could take as long as four months because the EPA is behind on reports, said Economic Developer Shannon Ruh.

Once the report gets the EPA's blessing, city water lines will be run to each of the properties and officials must pass an ordinance banning use of groundwater in the development area. Final paperwork must then be submitted to the IEPA for its approval before it will grant a No Further Remediation (NFR) letter for the property, at the intersection of Rtes. 1 and 9.

The letter is important because it will certify to future owners that the property meets IEPA standards. Hotel developer Bhupendra Naik of Danville will not begin construction until an NFR letter is granted, officials have previously said.

In other business, the council unanimously approved a resolution of support for a housing taskforce that will help determine housing needs for the future.

The resolution will allow the taskforce to begin gathering information on what is currently available and what is and will be needed to meet the city's housing needs.

The taskforce is comprised of members of the housing subcommittee of the mapping sessions and includes

Elizabeth Booher, Marilyn Unger, Don Dean, Larry Petry, Marilyn Moore, John Holt, Jean Minick, Ruh and DeWitt.

The taskforce is funded by a Rural Community Development Initiative housing grant from the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.

In related action, the council unanimously approved creating a position for a VISTA volunteer, a community resident to work with Ruh on housing and other areas of economic development. The position will be 40 hours per week with an \$855 per month stipend for travel and other expenses.

Applications are due by July 20 and once the city has selected a candidate, that person must apply online to the VISTA program and be accepted by the Institute for Rural Affairs, Ruh said.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Approved a \$175,067.85 bid from Iroquois Paving of Watseka for the road repair project. Other bids were received from Champaign Asphalt for \$181,757.75; University Construction, \$184,125.34; and Cross Construction, \$191,877.50.

- Approved accepting sealed bids for the city's 50/50 sidewalk replacement program. An estimated \$15,000 will be available in the program, said Alderman Jerry Jonkers, street/alley committee chairman. Under the program, residents and the city share the cost of installing new sidewalks.

The 50/50 program is for those whose homes will not be included if the city receives a Safe Routes to School sidewalk grant. A map of the route included in the grant application is available in Ruh's office at city hall.

- Heard from DeWitt that "Slow Moving Vehicle" signs will be put up in the alley behind the post office in an effort to slow traffic there. Officials have heard complaints about motorists speeding down the alley.

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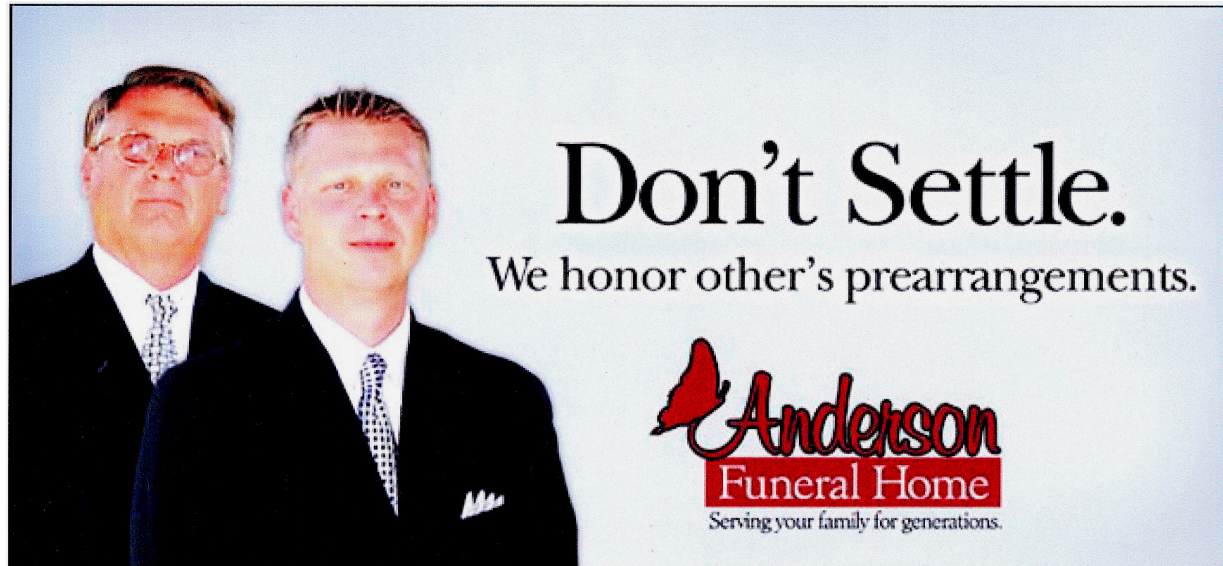


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Christopher M. Howe, 25, of 718 E. Elm was arrested at 2:38 p.m. Wednesday in the 700 block of East Elm on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, in lieu of bond.

Jacob B. Flesher, 32, of 601 E. Penn was arrested at 6:36 p.m. Wednesday in the 600 block of West Penn on a Champaign County warrant for failure to

Lunch Menus

MONDAY: Swedish meatballs/rice, peas, nectarine, wheat bread.
TUESDAY: Pork steak, lima beans, winter blend vegetables, applesauce, white bread.
WEDNESDAY: BBQ beef, diced potatoes, mixed vegetables, mixed fruit, white bread.
THURSDAY: Salisbury steak/gravy, potatoes/cheese, mixed vegetables, grape juice, wheat bread.
FRIDAY: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, cantaloupe, chocolate chip cookie, white bread.
All meals include milk.

Police News

appear. He was released on \$300 cash bond.

Angela K. Bane, 27, of 39077 N 990 E Rd. was arrested after an incident at 7:12 p.m. Wednesday in the 300 block of North Third. She was charged with battery on a complaint from a 16-year-old girl who alleged Bane grabbed her by the back of the neck, pushed her and kicked her down some stairs.

Bane was released on a recognizance bond.

Teofilo Morales-Encarnacion, 31, of 905 S. Second Ave., was arrested after a one-vehicle accident at 10:14 p.m. Wednesday. Police said Morales-

Encarnacion, in a 2000 Dodge Intrepid, struck the CSX Railroad tracks on East Washington. The impact spun the vehicle and sent it 58.6 feet down the tracks, stopping when the front driver's side wheel became lodged in the tracks.

He was charged with no valid driver's license and illegal transportation of alcohol and was released. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

Austin L. Rhodes II, 32, of 821 N. Third St., was arrested after an incident at 10:32 p.m. Thursday in the 600 block of East Penn. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 29-year-old Hoopeston woman.

Rhodes was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Obituaries

ALLEN - Edward Roy Allen, 94, of Hoopeston, formerly of Goodwine, died at 9:01 a.m. Tuesday, July 3, 2007, at home. Funeral service was at 10 a.m. Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial was in Amity Cemetery, Goodwine. Visitation was 4-7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Carle Hospice.

COTHRAN—Jeffery Michael Cothran, 30, of Rossville died at 7:40 p.m. Sunday, July 1, 2007 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. His body will be cremated and a memorial service held at a later date at Rossville Church of Christ. Memorials are suggested to Jeffery Cothran's Children's Memorial Fund at the Bank of Rantoul in Rossville. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

DANNER - Louis Danner, 83, of Rossville died Wednesday, July 4, 2007 at Veterans Affairs Illiana Health Care System, Danville. Private graveside service was Saturday at Rossville Cemetery with military honors by Rossville American Legion. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society. Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville was in charge of arrangements.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 90. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 70. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 87, low 69.

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

Briefly
Neighborhood Watch

The history of Freemasonry in the U.S. and the Hoopeston Masonic Lodge's involvement in the community will be the topic of the July 10 Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting. Featured speakers will be John Cozzie of the Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau and Robert Alkire of Hoopeston. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. at Country Terrace. Everyone is invited.

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