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Dice Addition residents balk at suggestions of annexation

Some residents who live near Hoopeston's boundaries want to make sure they stay living near the boundaries rather than inside them.

At the Sept. 4 Hoopeston City Council meeting, Barb and Ron Knuth and Ken Kuhles questioned discussion at a previous council meeting about the possibility of annexing residents who live in Dice Addition outside the city limits.

Mrs. Knuth asked aldermen why a meeting concerning annexation was scheduled for 11 a.m. the following day "while everyone is at work," while her husband said residents of the area had signed a petition saying they did not want to be annexed.

Kuhles wondered why all Dice Addition residents had not been notified of the meeting.

City attorney Paul Manion, who scheduled the meeting with Alderman Jerry Yonkers, Mayor Bill DeWitt and Grant Township Road Commissioner Gary Weinard, said the meeting was to present information to the group but was not intended to try to railroad residents into having their property annexed.

Manion said he was approached by Yonkers about what was needed to make city boundaries more uniform. Manion told Yonkers he would investigate and scheduled the meeting to relate what he had learned. The set meeting "was not about who's going to be annexed but how to go about it," Manion said.

Yonkers said the city does not want to force people to enter the city, adding officials do hope to entice them to do so. For example, he said, while joining the city would change their property tax structure, raising taxes, the amount would be offset by residents paying lower monthly water rates.

Currently, residents outside the city limits pay double what city residents pay for water, he added.

Manion said a meeting with residents would probably

be scheduled at a later date and stressed that any possible annexations would be done according to state law.

In unrelated business, the council heard from Steve Lowe and Kay Monigold of Avenue Broadband Communications of Tyler, Tex. The start-up company plans to purchase local Charter Communications properties, including the Hoopeston franchise.

However, officials had not received informational packets about the sale.

Hoopeston has a multi-year agreement with Charter that Avenue Broadband hopes will be transferred to them. Lowe said the company plans to have a call center in Vincennes, Ind., instead of overseas and that plans call for adding high speed data, high definition program, telephone service and digital video.

After brief discussion about the matter, resident Max Page urged the council to study the request before acting on it.

In further business, the council took no action on a request for additional liquor licenses.

DeWitt said four companies have asked about licenses but did not list the businesses.

Alderman Bill Goodwine said the issue of liquor licenses is one of convenience versus control. "I don't know about control but if I want a six-pack, I have no problem getting one." While some applicants have said alcohol sales would boost their businesses, Goodwine said "nobody's going to go out of business because they don't have a beer license."

That argument was used by establishments that wanted to have Sunday sales in Hoopeston. Owners of those businesses said Hoopeston residents would drive to other communities, such as Milford, where Sunday sales were already allowed.

DeWitt said the licenses are "more or less a conven-

See COUNCIL on other side

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 \$45/person-\$180/4 person team
 4 person scramble. Top team takes prize money
 2nd prize is Bankers Payout
 Food served throughout the day at the Shelter

— **Briefly** —

Tiny Tots
 Curious George is the theme of Tiny Tots at 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.
 Tiny Tots will not be held next week.

Home Gourmet benefit
 The second annual Home Gourmet open house to benefit the Milford Christian Church Harvest of Talents will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Milford Depot. All proceeds will benefit International Disaster Emergency Services. Those unable to attend may call Christy Lee, (815) 984-4207 or email www.homemadegourmet.com/CHRISTY21322

Crafters needed
 Crafters are needed for the 28th annual "Harvest Daze" sponsored by Iroquois County Historical Society. The show will be Oct. 6 and 7 at the Old Courthouse Museum at the corner of South Second and Cherry. For information call Judy from 10-4 at (815) 432-2215.

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FREEway Community Teen Center seeks financial support

The FREEway Community Teen Center in Ross-ville has now been in operation for seven years. It has been a light in a community and a positive influence in the lives of junior high and high school students.

The teen center exists to provide a safe and positive place for students to gather and to provide tutoring and motivation for them to succeed in school and as a part of the community. The FREEway hosts special events such as a Superbowl Party, New Year's Eve Party, and a Halloween Alternative. Our regular schedule includes a junior high night from 7-9 p.m. on Mondays and a high school night from 9-11 p.m. on Fridays.

The building is available for rental for birthday parties, reunions, etc. The FREEway also hosts guest speakers and hopes to sponsor concerts in the near future. We have been supported by churches, individuals, businesses and grants. The John P. Cadle Foundation makes a significant contribution every year that has gone a long way in making a difference

in students lives.

The FREEway is in a position, presently, that they have not seen in their 7 year existence. Due to many economic barriers, the teen center is in dire need of your support. With gas prices on the rise, a declining economy in Rossville, and operation costs rising, it is a struggle to keep the doors of the FREEway open.

We need your help. The FREEway has avenues you can use to support us financially as a tax deduction. We would also appreciate your prayers.

If you are interested in helping the FREEway in any way, please call Andy Thomas at (217) 304-2884.

Obituaries

VAUGHN - Rick Vaughn, 58, of Rossville died Monday, Sept. 10, 2007 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Arrangements are pending at Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rossville: 1 bdr Riverview Apartments. Completely refurbished, on-site washers & dryers. \$320/mo., \$320 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672.

CHILDCARE

Hoopeston daycare has full time, part time openings. Transportation to and from school will be provided. Call Amy at (217) 213-7491

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Council continued from other side

ience of whoever is applying for it. They feel if they don't have a liquor or beer and wine license, they're missing a lot of business. I don't know if that's true because I haven't done a survey on it."

Alderman Ed Lotz suggested requests for liquor licenses be handled on a case-by-case basis. Manion said those requesting a liquor license could plead their case at a council meeting.

In other business, the council:

Heard from resident Steve Dazey about the need to slow traffic in the alley north of Main St.

Heard from Alderman Bill Crusinberry that Hoopeston will participate in a water supply study regarding future ethanol plants in the area.

Weather



Sunny today and tomorrow. High today 70, low 43. Tomorrow, high 80, low 57.

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