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## Holiday Tour of Homes

Sunday, December 9 2-7 p.m.

Sponsored by Hoopeston Healthcare Foundation

Tickets for the Tour of Homes & Christmas Tree Raffle are available at:  
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Hoopeston Hospital  
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At Each Home

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Joe & Linda Fecker	416 E. Penn
Hugh & Marsha Griffon	415 E. Washington
David & CJ Elliott	701 S. Fifth Street
Andy & Megan Braden*	516 E. Seminary
Tony & Phyllis Freeland	322 S. Fourth Street
Tim & Angie Totheroh	2790 E. 300 N. Road
	Wellington

Tickets are \$10 each

Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

**Thursday, December 6, 2007**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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**www.justthefacts.net**

Phone/Fax:  
(217) 283-9348  
Email:

[publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net)

### City council hears pitch about community liaison position

If some Vermilion County officials have their way, the state's attorney's office will have a new employee.

Jim McMahon, Vermilion County Board chairman, and Bill Donahue, county finance committee chairman, attended Tuesday night's Hoopeston City Council meeting to pitch a plan that would create a community liaison position within the state's attorney's office.

According to the men, a person hired under the proposed Community Prosecution and Neighborhood Liaison Program would work with police and community leaders in each Vermilion County community to prioritize reaction to crimes in those communities.

Both men said there is a need to do something to help communities deal with crimes and criminals particular to the communities.

"The assessed value of Vermilion County is falling at a rapid rate," McMahon said, citing blight and violence

See COUNCIL on other side



Vermilion County Board Chairman Jim McMahon makes a point at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting. McMahon and county finance chairman Bill Donahue attended the meeting to get support for a new position in the State's Attorney's office.



The  
Hoopeston American Legion  
Fish Fry  
will not be held Friday

**Rock & Bowl**  
8:30-12:30 Saturday  
with Maui Club  
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## Council continued from other side

as two reasons for the decline. He said that violent crime is 18 percent more likely to occur in Vermilion County than any other county in Illinois. Senior citizens are three times more likely to be involved in a violent crime than any other county, while county young people have a 90 percent change of being involved with violent crime than other counties. "We have it," he said. "The crime is real. The depreciation of neighborhoods is happening."

Donahue said "the character of our community has changed over the years. We want to try to make sure every

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every Thursday 7 p.m.  
**Hoopeston**  
**American Legion**  
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community gets the quality of life it deserves."

Under the proposal, the liaison would work with each community in assessing crimes and those which should be prosecuted. The liaison would then handle cases and report back to community committees with updates.

Donahue estimated the position would pay about \$50,000.

The men are going to Vermilion County communities to drum up support before approaching the county board with the plan. McMahon said a nod for funding would be more likely if widespread community support could be shown to the county board.

City attorney Paul Manion, agreeing with the concept, suggested the city hold off on supporting the plan until it has been run by all state's attorney candidates.

Donahue is one of four people looking to replace incumbent Frank Young, who is not running for reelection.

McMahon said he would work on Manion's request and in conversation after the meeting, said Hoopeston was the only community to question the proposal.

In other business, the council heard from economic developer Shannon Ruh that the city has received a draft No Further Remediation (NFR) letter from the EPA for property at the corner of Rtes. 1 and 9.

Officials submitted a plan to the EPA to fix a potential ground water problem at the site. The plan calls for the

## Obituaries

**GILLISPIE** - Harrel E. Gillispie Jr., 68, of Hoopeston died at 6:55 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007 at Provena Hospital, Danville. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

**TAYLOR** - James W. Taylor, 49, of Milford, formerly of Watseka, died at 2:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007 at Deaconess Hospital, Evansville, Ind. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Segur-Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery, Watseka. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

capping of wells on adjacent properties, a groundwater ordinance and drilling of a new well for one property owner.

The draft letter supports the plan and will allow remediation to begin on the site, along with installing city water lines, Ruh said.

When Hoopeston receives the final NFR letter, it can market the property for a motel, she added.

Bhupendra Naik, a Danville motel owner, had signed an agreement with the city to build a motel there. However, that agreement has expired and Naik has not renewed it. While he is considering other sites for a motel, he has not ruled out Hoopeston, Ruh said.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard a presentation from the Mayor's Youth Council about the Governor's Hometown Award the group won recently.

- Heard from Alderman Carl Ankenbrand that the high-side estimated cost for the skate park design at Northside (Cheese) Park is \$65,000, including labor. The estimate includes a 60'x60' plaza, with a four inch concrete pad, 24" platforms, 48" piers, steps, side rails and sidewalks.

- In related business, Ankenbrand tabled two bids for rewiring the Hoopeston Civic Center, citing a \$10,000 difference between them.

The city received two bids, from Gene Roach of Ross-ville and Kenny McVicker.

- Heard from Alderman Bill Crusinberry that occasionally, the radio-read meters used by the water department

## Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 4:46 p.m. Tuesday in the 200 block of East Penn. Police said Marilyn Lithgow, in a 2001 Chevrolet Malibu, hit a 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix driven by Ashley Baker of Hoopeston. Lithgow then left the scene but was later located at her home.

## Weather

Cloudy today. High 32. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 29. Tomorrow, cloudy. High 37, low 24.

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

malfunction and show zero usage for a month. Residents are still responsible to pay for water used.

## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Countryside Mall open 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays until Christmas. Paperback books 50¢; new dealer in soy candles with great prices! New touch lamps. New coats, \$122 value, \$40. Several Spiderman blankets. DVDs, CDs, Playstation games. Visa, MasterCard, Discover accepted. 217 E. Main, Hoopeston

Avon Christmas Sale Saturday, Dec. 8, 8-4. 1027 W. Thompson Ave. Everything half price or less!

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

UPSTAIRS APARTMENT- Spacious, 2-3 bedroom, 1 bath, major kitchen appliances; private entrances, washer/dryer available, includes water/garbage; service animals only, no smoking; \$375 per month. For application call 217-283-6463.

3 BR upstairs apt. Stove, fridge furnished. 1 car garage & basement access. \$400/mo., \$400 dep. No pets. References required. (217) 772-1254

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### HOUSES FOR RENT

Two bedroom house for rent in Hoopeston. Great Neighborhood! No Pets. \$425 per month, Deposit and References Required. Call 217-304-6547 for Application.

### HOUSES FOR SALE

Country Home south of Hoopeston. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch in a wooded setting. New custom kitchen, interior paint and carpets, maintenance free exterior, all on 1.75 acres. Asking \$179,900. Call 217-304-6547 for more info & a private showing.

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

The Village of Rossville will be accepting sealed bids for a 2 story home at 123 E. Attica St., circa 1900, newer roof, vinyl siding, some newer repl. windows, newer Trane furnace never used. Interior needs finishing. Approx 2450 sq. ft. Large lot. Zoned B-1, majority of rewiring completed. Minimum bid \$20,000. Redevelopment agreement with terms/conditions. Call or pick up details at Municipal office 748-6914 or call Mayor Prillaman 748-6900. Bids to be opened 7 pm, Dec. 17, 2007.

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

'95 F-150 . 6 cyl., extended cab, auto start. \$2500 OBO. (217) 283-7027 days, 283-9611 after 4:30

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