


HOOPESTON ROCK SERVICE
 DRIVEWAY & PARKING LOT GRADING
 RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
 NEW DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION
 ROCK & DIRT
DAN SHEEHAN
217-304-5052
www.hoopestonrockngrading.com

FAST LANES
 Summer Special

9 Pin Tournament
 Sunday, Aug. 10 2 p.m.
 to say Goodbye & Good Luck to
Barb & Kenny McVicker
 Men & Women's divisions separate
 with prize money to each.
Men
 bowl 4 games - throw out 1 -
 must declare at the end of each game.
 Handicap 80% or 200
Ladies
 bowl 3 games with handicap
 of 90% of 200.
 Entry fee \$20/persson
LINAGE & PRIZE FUND
 Open to anyone with or without an
 average. If no average, you go into a
 separate group.
 Interested individuals call or come
 to Fast Lanes to sign up
(217) 283-6505
 719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505

Lourdine Florek
 owner/publisher

Just the Facts[©]

Phone/Fax:
 (217) 283-9348

Email:
publish@justthefacts.net

Monday, August 4, 2008

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

Rossville residents turn out to question plans for buildings

ROSSVILLE—Tempers sometimes got as hot as the Rossville-Alvin Grade School gym at a public meeting to discuss plans for village-owned buildings downtown.

About 100 people came to hear the board's intentions for buildings at 114, 116, 118, 115 and 117 E. Attica.

The village took ownership of the buildings, all built in about 1895, after they were foreclosed upon. The former owner filed bankruptcy and moved from the area, said Mayor Terry Prillaman.

The bank through which the buildings were financed did not want ownership, and after contacting the bankruptcy court in Indianapolis, the village was granted ownership after paying \$7,441 in back taxes.

"If the village had done nothing, we would have sat back and watched the buildings deteriorate further and further," Prillaman said. "If you own something, you can control it's destiny."

An ad hoc committee, chaired by Adam Marganski, was appointed to look at options for the buildings, including stabilizing the structures then selling them on the condition that new owners restore them, or demolishing them.

Stabilizing the buildings, including tuckpointing and



Sharon Watson expresses concerns about downtown buildings in Rossville at a public meeting Thursday evening.

new roofs, was estimated to cost \$120,000 total, while a quote from a Danville demolition firm set the cost to raze the buildings at \$500,000, Marganski said, adding that figure did not include costs associated costs of an environmental study and remediation work that would have to be done before the buildings were torn down.

Along with determining costs, the ad hoc committee also considered other things, such as whether grants would be available for building rehabilitation and the impact of either stabilizing or fixing the them.

A structural engineer who examined the buildings

See **BUILDINGS** on other side

Looking for a bank that's
 customer friendly and on the go?

That's Us!

Community Bank

Hoopeston, Illinois

Your hometown bank since 1913 Member FDIC

221 Bank St. (217) 283-7733Rts. 1&9 283-9723

Visit our website at www.hoopestonbank.com!

Monday is
Ranchburger Night
Free pool everyday!
BJ's Pump & Iron
 Bar & Package Liquor Store
 1023 W. Main, Hoopeston
 (217) 283-5700




Harris Agency, Inc.

Insurance Protection for Your
 Auto • Home • Life • Health • Business



HOOPESTON
 ROSSVILLE
 MILFORD

(217) 283-5031

www.harrisinsagency.com

PAYLESS TOURS, INC.

Mon., Nov. 3rd. \$200 PP Dbl Occ.

2 nts at Tama, IA, 1 nt Catfish Bend, Burlington, IA. \$70
 Cashback, \$9 Food Cpns, 1 Breakfast. To entertain you
 on the Bus: we play Bingo, show movies, DVDs of Cme-
 dians. We stop every 2-3 hrs. for potty or smoke break.

Stop for 1 hr Lunch break.

Call Carolyn 217-283-7406

Bus leaves Hoopeston, Danville, Champaign

Buildings continued from other side

filed a report stating the structural soundness of all buildings but added those on the north side are in worse condition than those on the south.

The committee recommended the village move to stabilize the buildings but members of the village board wanted public input before making a decision. At Thursday's meeting, that input was divided.

Jerry Powers, who has lived in the village for about a year, compared tuckpointing the structure to a woman putting makeup on, adding the buildings need more than cosmetic updates.

Lee Gonzales said \$120,000 is "a drop in the bucket" of what it will cost to get the buildings in shape. "If you think you'll only spend \$120,000, you're kidding yourselves," he said.

The village is facing many costly issues, including fixing storm sewers, a new sewer system and a likely tax hike to pay for the new fire station, said Rich Lee. "If we spend money like drunken sailors, we're not going to survive," he said.

Denny Price, president of the Rossville-Alvin School

Board, questioned comments from ad hoc committee member Jim Smith about the possibility of drawing retired people to Rossville, saying the school board supported the village tax increment financing (TIF) district to promote growth, including adding new students to the district. Price wondered who would buy the buildings and whether such a project has been done in Illinois.

Prillaman replied that the TIF was started to promote growth but that the economic downturn, which started in about 2004, has affected that but that the village still hopes the TIF will help the economy and the school district.

Smith added that retirees have disposable income and that attracting retirees, especially from areas like Chicago, might help Rossville through increased sales tax. Also, he said, money received through the sale of retirees' Chicago area homes could be reinvested in Rossville.

He suggested enthusiastic village residents go to home shows in the Chicago area and collar counties, with pictures and information on Rossville. "If you do that and do it consistently, I'm convinced you'd get a lot of people.

Sharon Watson, who owns a building between two village-owned buildings, said "no one knocked on my door to see how it would affect me." Watson said her building has mold coming from a building next door. "I

wanted to bring something here but I can't."

Bill Ray wondered if Rossville would become "Caseysville," saying "people won't buy a vacant lot and put an expensive building in and sell lots of stuff."

Not everyone expressed negative opinions of the proposed project.

Darius Bryjka of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, said stabilized buildings could be sold and the owners could qualify for federal tax credits. "If the buildings are not saved, there's no more to talk about," he said. "Nobody's going to build on that property (if it's empty)."

Cathy Yates Collier said she purchased a downtown building at auction and has spent money to fix it up. "I've invested in this town; I've invested in this building. Asked by others if she will see a return on her investment, "the only thing I could say is you have to have faith in your community," she said. "If we start tearing down the buildings, we're not going to have anything to build on."

Gene Roach agreed that stabilizing and selling the buildings would be better than tearing them down, which would start a domino effect of buildings being raised. "To me, it's a no-brainer," he said.

"It's a tough problem," Marganski said. "There are no easy solutions." Addressing a question about property values, Marganski wondered aloud, "who's going to buy

property (if nothing is done) when it looks like someone dropped a bomb on it?"

In his opening remarks, Prillaman talked about the importance of saving the buildings. "They're part of our history, our heritage," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by others. Former Mayor Merv Smith reminisced about the building on the south side that once housed a hardware store. "It would be a crime to tear it down," he said.

*For all your
beverage needs*
**Ted's Home
Beverage**
101 W. Main
Hoopeston
(217) 283-7213

Classifieds

HOUSES FOR RENT

Hoopeston: 3 bedroom, one bath, two car garage, stove and refrigerator, microwave included, newly remodeled. \$450/month, first and last months rent and security deposit of \$400 required. For an application call: 217-283-5475.

3 bedroom, one bath, two car garage, stove and refrigerator, microwave included, newly remodeled. \$450/month, first and last months rent and security deposit of \$400 required. For an application call: 217-283-5475.

PETS

Miniature dachshund puppies. Ready Sept. 14. AKC registered. Parents on site. Call (217) 283-6430.

Free to good home: Boston terrier mix dog. 2 years old, housebroken, good with kids, micro-chipped, neutered. Call (217) 474-2950

RUMMAGE SALES

407 W. Dice, Hoopeston. Sat., Aug. 9 & 16, 8-2. Sm/Med adult clothing, misc. Christmas & household items, small appliances, toys, games & books, bowling ball. Something for everyone!

SERVICES

Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340

Satellite TV Guys--specializing in Dish Network and HughesNet Satellite Internet. Call Tom or Becky anytime at 217-765-4455, Alvin, IL.

Dog Grooming by Jean. TLC for your Dog or Cat. Saturday & Sunday appointments on occasion. Pickup & delivery available. Also boarding. (217) 283-7426

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!



Sports Physicals

Thursday, Aug. 7
3-4:30 p.m.

**Charlotte Russell
Medical Center**

\$15

Junior High
High School
Youth Football

No appointment needed!
No insurance will be billed
Questions? (217) 283-5644

Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:25 a.m. Thursday in the 300 block of East Maple. Police said Vivian Crose of Hoopeston, in a 2003 Ford, backed from a driveway into a parked 1999 Ford owned by Robert and Dovie Fouse, also of Hoopeston.

A 66-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 10:14 a.m. Friday that someone took her purse from her home in the 800 block of East Penn.

A representative of Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth St., reported at 5:38 p.m. Friday that a urinal had been pulled off the wall in the boys' restroom.

After reviewing a videotape, two youngsters were identified, found at their homes and told not to return to the library.

No criminal charges were filed against the boys.

Obituaries

BRIDGES - Richard L. Bridges, 74, of Hoopeston died at 6:25 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 2008 at Vermilion Manor Nursing Home, Danville. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is in charge of arrangements.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 94. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 73. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 92, low 70.

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