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IEPA sets aside loan funds to repair city water storage tanks

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set aside \$1.25 million in loan money to fix Hoopeston's water storage tanks.

In a letter to the city, the IEPA said funds would be available as long as the city maintains a loan application completion schedule, said Alderman Bill Crusinberry at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Crusinberry, chairman of the water/sewer department, said application materials must be ready by January 1, 2009. If the deadline is met, a construction contract would be awarded by March 31, 2009.

Foth, Inc., a Champaign engineering firm, is completing the application on behalf of the city.

Money would be used to repair both the water tower and "very serious problems" with the ground storage tank, Crusinberry said.

The interior of the ground tank would be rebuilt, both tanks would receive other repairs, sandblasting and repainting and a third tank would be constructed that would include a new aerator. Crusinberry said maintenance on the third tank would be easier because it could most likely be cleaned with a fire hose.

When work is completed, it should last for about 30 years.

The city will have to determine how to repay the low-interest loan, which may include increasing water rates by \$2 or \$2.50 per household and a similar increase for commercial customers, Crusinberry said, adding the water department has to be self-supporting and cannot take money from the city's general fund.

In unrelated business, the council took no action on an agenda item to award bids for an engineered barrier at the site of the proposed motel.

The barrier, expected to be made of asphalt, is the final stage the city must have done before the EPA will issue a No Further Remediation (NFR) letter on

the property. A conditional NFR could be issued before the work is complete, allowing development to begin.

Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, told the council that there is still a lot of work to do before the barrier is put down and before a sewer line on the property is relocated.

Mayor Bill DeWitt asked if the city shouldn't move ahead quickly but Goodwine said the city is not sure where exactly the barrier is to be located and that ground will not be broken for the motel until spring. "It's not an emergency, by any means," Goodwine said.

In unrelated business, Alderman Ed Lotz, police committee chairman, said a proposed ordinance allowing golf carts to be driven on city streets is "still in limbo," but since carts would only be allowed on streets between March and the end of September, "we have plenty of time to put it together."

The city still needs to get a state permit that would designate where carts could cross Routes 1 and 9.

Goodwine wondered whether the ordinance needs to be enacted, since the price of gasoline has dropped from \$4/gallon to \$1.83/gallon.

Lotz responded that several residents continue to show interest in the proposal.

In final business, resident Jean Minick told the council that Santa will arrive on November 29 and will meet youngsters at the Methodist Church. The day will also feature an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and pictures with Santa. Cost for the breakfast is \$5 per person, with children under five eating free. Pictures with Santa will be \$3 each.

The project is sponsored by Hoopeston Main Street and Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce.

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Briefly

Fruit Sales

Hoopeston Area High School Class of 2009 kicked off the annual fruit sale Friday, Nov. 7. Sales will continue through Monday, Nov. 24. Along with a variety of fruits, including pears, grapefruit, tangelos, apples and oranges, the sale also includes five varieties of cheese-cakes.

Please contact any HAHS senior for information or call the high school office, (217) 283-6661.

Men's basketball

First Baptist Church will have open men's basketball

Group hopes to make Christmas brighter for 11-12 year olds

Due to expected record numbers for this year's Miracle Tree and Toys for Kids, the age range has been cut back to 10 years old.

To make sure slightly older children have a merry Christmas, a local group is collecting a list of 11- and 12-year-olds who are in need.

Since Grant Township is accepting only names of

from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, beginning November 6.

HMA coat drive

Hoopeston Multi Agency is holding its annual coat drive. Coats are needed for children ages 0-18. They may be dropped off at 206 S. First Ave. For more information, call (217) 283-5544.

Community feedback sought

Hoopeston Department of Economic Development is looking for community feedback regarding issues of site development, business expansion and resource retention. We are looking for what community members are inter-

younger children, the group is asking the public to help them help children ages 11 and 12.

To submit the name of a child in the Hoopeston Area school district, email santacares2@yahoo.com or mail the child's name, age and address to Santa at P.O. Box 297, Hoopeston IL 60942.

All information will remain confidential.



Court Dispositions



Oct. 16

Megan L. Lane, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to criminal damage to property, fined 4230; status hearing Dec. 18.

David L. Zarate, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis, fined \$180.

Shane M. Baker, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to

restraint of dogs by owner or keeper, fined \$230; status hearing Jan. 22, 2009.

Eric W. Kinnaird, Rankin, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, fined \$180; status hearing Nov. 20.

Obituaries

BURGETT - Martha (Duke) Burgett, 92, of Milford, died at 6:05 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, 2008 at home. Graveside service will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Memorials are suggested to Iroquois Memorial Hospice, Milford Library, Milford Ambulance of Milford Methodist Church. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, was in charge of arrangements.

Weather



Chance of flurries today. High 35. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 16. Tomorrow, sunny. High 31, low 19.

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

ested in bringing to Hoopeston and development they would be in favor of in different locations.

Suggestions or feedback may be sent to Dana Goodrum at econdev@hoopeston.org.

The Department of Economic Development will set up multiple meeting times and locations to receive community feedback.

Thanksgiving service

Hoopeston Area Ministerial Association will hold a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23, at 2 p.m. at First Christian Church. Choirs and musicians from several area churches will provide music during this service of praise and prayer.

All are invited.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 BR upstairs apt. 302 W. Washington, Hoopeston. Appliances included. Laundry access. 800 sq. ft. \$325+security dep. References, no pets. Call (217) 304-3477 for application.

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NOTICES

Notice-To the person or person that took the XM radio from the vehicle at 221 W. Elm Street on the night of Sat. Nov. 15th. There are specific componets to the radio that will allow the original owner to access location trace & signal blocking, rendering this radio useless to anyone other than original owner. It may be in your best interest to return it. Modern Technology is a wonderful tool.

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