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Just the Facts[©]

Monday, February 23, 2009

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
 Email: publish@justthefacts.net
www.justthefacts.net

Special council session called for planned affordable housing

Hoopeston is getting a second chance at a work-force housing development.

Mayor Bill DeWitt called a special meeting of the Hoopeston City Council at 6:30 p.m. Monday to hear representatives of Illinois Action Community Development Corporation and Windsor Development speak on the proposed \$3.5 million affordable work-force housing development.

Representatives spoke at the February 17 council meeting and are expected to present similar information at Monday's meeting, said Dana Goodrum, Hoopeston's economic developer.

The council was asked last Tuesday's meeting to approve a resolution earmarking up to \$400,000 in Tax Increment Financing or in-kind money for infra-

structure in the housing development. Alderman Jeff Johnson made a motion to do so but no one seconded his motion.

After the meeting, housing officials had considered dropping Hoopeston as a site but with the second presentation, the city gets another chance to keep the project, which is expected to kick off with 24 single family homes.

If the council does not pass the resolution, Hoopeston will lose the development project, Goodrum said. "\$3.5 million for our community would be incredibly impactful, not to mention we have a serious need for affordable housing for single families and for seniors in our community," she said.

The presentation is open to the public.

Hoopeston Area tables tri-party contract for clarification

A contract among Hoopeston Area, Rossville-Alvin and Bismarck-Henning school districts is expected to be voted on in March if language issues are clarified.

Hoopeston Area School Board tabled action on the contract at its meeting Thursday night.

The contract covers issues pertaining to Rossville-Alvin students since the district deactivated its high school.

Bismarck-Henning already approved the contract, which calls for Rossville-Alvin to pay 95 percent of the audited average tuition rate of B-H and Hoopeston Area for each of its high school students.

The original agreement called for Rossville-Alvin to pay 90 percent of the averaged tuition.

Rossville-Alvin is expected to act on the issue at its meeting Monday night.

In other business, the board heard from Superinten-

dent Hank Hornbeck about a new school, Elpis Middle College, an alternative school for students "who don't fit in" at their home schools.

Danville Area Community College, along with county high schools, Regional Office of Education, Vermilion Advantage, Vermilion Healthcare Foundation and Vermilion Vocational Education Delivery System (VVEDS) are backing the school as a way to boost graduation rates.

Elpis, which is Greek for "hope," will offer dual enrollment for up to 25 juniors and seniors. Each student will receive a computer, earn college credit and those who complete the program will have a scholarship to continue at DACC.

In unrelated business, the board:

• Heard from grade school principals that their schools are gearing up for the ISAT standardized test

See HOOPESTON AREA on other side

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Police News

Mark Hathaway of Hathaway Trucking, Ross-ville, reported Thursday that a white Wabash National semi trailer was missing from the 700 block of South Chicago in Rossville.

A **30-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 1:59 a.m. Saturday that someone damaged her car in the 800 block of East Penn.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident



Court Dispositions



January 22

James C. Roof, Hoopeston, found guilty of battery, fined \$180; status hearing April 16.

James C. Roof, Hoopeston, battery dismissed by hearing officer.

February 5

Karen Heath, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to general

nuisance, fined \$230; status hearing May 7.

Adena Rossolille, Rossville, failed to appear for general nuisance, found guilty by default; sentencing March 19.

Fire Calls



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 9:43 a.m. Friday to a vehicle on fire in the 600 block of East Maple. No injuries were reported.

Briefly

Concert

Hoopeston Area High School band and chorus will present a Winter Concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the middle school gym.

Meetings

- Special Hoopeston City Council meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, city hall

Walder, John Greer.

- Approved Hornbeck's contract.
- Approved renting the high school auditorium to New Beginnings Church from 8 am.-noon Sundays until the church can find a permanent home.
- Approved purchasing a 2010 29-passenger bus and a 2009 71-passenger bus from Ponder Transportation for \$89,673 total.
- Approved the 2009-10 common county calendar.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 28. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 16. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 37, low 29.

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



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HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom Duplex for rent in Hoopeston. Very nice. No pets, No smoking. \$400 per month. Deposit & references required. Call 217-304-6547 for application.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, completely remodeled with appliances available March 1st. \$450 per month + deposit. For application, call 217-283-5475.

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HOUSES FOR SALE

House for sale in Rossville - 2/3 bedroom, very nice condition, many new updates, needs nothing. Great location, close to school. Asking \$37,000. Call 217-304-6547 for details.

For Sale By Owner - E. McNeil 2 bed, 1 bath, large privacy fence, patio, full basement, 2 car det. garage, corner lot, appliances neg, \$47,000 217-283-4312

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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