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Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

Just the Facts[©]

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 **www.justthefacts.net**

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Hoopeston City Council approves new housing development

In an about-face from its February 17 meeting, the Hoopeston City Council on Tuesday approved earmarking \$400,000 in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds for an affordable housing development.

Alderman Jeff Johnson made Tuesday's motion, as he did February 17. Unlike then, when Johnson couldn't get a second to his motion, Alderman Ed Lotz seconded and the council approved the issue 6-1.

The resolution will allow up to \$400,000 of cash or in-kind TIF funds to be used to install infrastructure for the \$3.5 million development, which will be located on a portion of the former Hoopeston Industrial Corporation property on Rt. 9.

Christened "Prairie Meadows," the development will include 25 single family homes and a park. Rents for the homes, which will be a mixture of ranch and two-story structures, will be based on income. Funds will come from the Illinois Housing Development Authority and from a private investor who will receive tax credits. Windsor Development of Springfield is the general contracting firm for the project, which is expected to use local contractors and materials.

Plans call for the homes to be sold after 15 years, with current tenants having first right of refusal.

Prior to the vote, Alderman Carl Ankenbrand said he made phone calls to Litchfield, where a similar development is located, and received a favorable review from the community's economic developer.

Lotz told the council that he received a memo from Police Chief Mark Drollinger, who spoke with police representatives in Pana, Beardstown and Litchfield. Lotz read the memo, which cited no increased crime because of or in the developments, although law enforcement officials said developments in each of the communities are fairly new, with homes not near the point of being sold.

Alderman Bill Goodwine was the sole dissenting vote. "I'd be happy to make a comment and get it out of the way," he said before the vote. Goodwine spoke of how, over the last several years, he's seen Hoopeston become rougher, with increased crime and decreased school test scores.

Saying he believes existing residents will move into the new homes, Goodwine wondered, "without good jobs to offer people, will the vacuum of cheap empty houses attract people who will make our community rougher or more gentle?" He reiterated his statement, **See COUNCIL on other side**

34th Annual
HOOPESTON ROTARY
Pancake & Sausage Day
Saturday, March 7, 2009
6 a.m.-1 p.m.
American Legion

 **Age 6 & under are FREE**  **\$5**


Hoopeston Area
Girls Softball meeting
3 p.m. Sunday, March 8
at Fast Lanes.


For the Luck 'O the Irish
SHAMROCKS

Flowers & Gifts by Mully Culbert
702 W. Main, Hoopeston (800) 523-1344 Open 7 Days!

 **Steak Fry**
Friday
5:30-8 p.m.
American Legion
502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

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every Thursday 7 p.m.
Hoopeston
American Legion
502 E. Penn

HELP WANTED. PART TIME INCOME!
SITE MANAGER NEEDED FOR COMPLEXES IN HOOPESTON. MINOR MAINTENANCE, CLEANING AND OFFICE SKILLS REQUIRED. MUST BE RESPONSIBLE, OUTGOING, AND ABLE TO RENT APARTMENTS. PLEASE SEND RESUME TO:
SITE MANAGER
ATN: GENA
PO BOX 657
ROBINSON IL 62454
or email resume to Gena@macocompanies.com



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Council continued from other side

wondering if new residents would decrease or increase both the crime rate and school test scores.

In other discussion, the council heard from economic developer Dana Goodrum that Hoopeston will receive \$180,000 in federal stimulus funds for infrastructure projects. The city has until March 25 to review its wish list and submit projects to the Department of Transportation, she said, adding she is applying for other funds from other departments that would benefit Hoopeston.

In unrelated business, the council tabled a request from The Realm of Shard, a medieval role-playing group, to hold a renaissance fair from June 5-7 at McFerren Park. The council is expected to vote on the issue at its March 17 meeting if Shard can show proof of insurance for the event.

The fair will be used as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, said Shard member Chris Inman. Admission to the fair will be free but freewill donations will be accepted for the ACS, he said.

Along with Shard “foam fighting” tournaments, the fair is expected to include vendors, medieval actors, minstrels, acrobats and other displays, said Shard member Mark Huckleby.

The men requested use of the park annex for the Shard fighting tournament and the east side of the park, roughly from the horseshoe pits to the Jaycees building, to accommodate vendors who require electricity.

The council also:

- Unanimously approved a \$6,055 bid from T&L Lawncare for broadleaf spraying of city parks and ball fields.
- Heard from Alderman Bill Crusinberry that the city received a certificate from Illinois American Waterworks Association for 12 months of compliance with state fluoridation laws.
- Also heard from Crusinberry that some residents have detected an odor coming from treatment lagoons. Crusinberry explained that odor sometimes gets trapped under ice then the lagoons freeze, then surfaces during thaws. Also, he said, lagoons are handling more wastewater from Hoopeston Foods, which is “having their best year ever. According to (CEO) Tad (Ballantyne), when times are bad, people eat more beans.”

- Listened as Crusinberry talked about water main breaks along Rt. 1. Officials hope to put shut off valves along the mains there, in part to help Hen-

Police News



A **45-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Wednesday that someone broke through the fence and locked back door of his home and took his television set. The burglary occurred between 7:20 p.m.-11 p.m. Tuesday in the 600 block of West Main.

Jonathan D. Taylor, 38, of Danville, was arrested at 8:18 a.m. Wednesday at Hoopeston Foods, 215 W. Washington. Wanted on a Peoria County warrant for DUI, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

ning’s Root Beer Stand, which has no water when a main breaks in the area.

- Approved paying Shaw Environmental \$11,500 to finish brownfields grant work to get a No Further Remediation letter from the Illinois EPA.
- Heard from Alderwoman Nancy Stipp that the high school wood class will make new Welcome to Hoopeston signs at a cost of \$500.

Weather



Breezy today and tonight. High 59, low 48. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of showers late. High 61, low 43.

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

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Hoopeston-Newer Adult complex. 2 bedroom 1 bath. Full basement. Washing machine, refrigerator, stove. Walk to stores. Quiet surroundings. Immediate occupancy. \$475 + deposit, references required. No pets. 217-260-2546.

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start is accepting applications for Director. Applicants need an Early Childhood bachelors degree or higher preferred but not required. Spanish preferred but not required for the position. Applicant must have a minimum of 2 years director experience in a early childhood setting. Interested applicants please send resume with college transcripts to Hoopeston Migrant Head Start, P.O. Box 136, Wellington, IL 60973. Fax to 815-984-4500 or you may email to hmhs136@yahoo.com. Please respond by March 10, 2009.

Hoopeston Multi Agency seeks assistant Teen Reach director/cook. Must have high school diploma or GED. 5 years experience dealing with children a plus. Must have or be able to get food handler’s license. Send resume to Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942

Local professional seeks punctual assistant who practices confidentiality and has people and computer skills. Part time, flexible hours. Send resume to Box C, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

HOUSES FOR RENT

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.

204 Church St, Rossville- Available- March 2 BR Ranch- \$425 + deposit. No pets, references- 217-304-3477 for an application.

East Orange, Hoopeston. 2 BR, garage. No pets. \$475/mo + security deposit. (217) 304-3477

Nice 2 bedroom w/large kitchen (stove furnished) laundry/mud room, full basement. No pets. \$450/mo., \$450 deposit. For info, call (217) 304-4487

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

4 mo. old large white Kenmore refrigerator. Paid \$469, asking \$300; heavy duty 4 wheeled walker w/hand brakes, seat. New. \$200. (217) 748-6359

SERVICES

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

WANTED

Buying Indian head pennies, pre-1964 silver coins. (217) 499-2800

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