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Lourdine Florek
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Just the Facts[©]

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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North Market work to be done partly with stimulus money

North Market St. is set to get a facelift next year, using, in part, federal stimulus money.

Ellen Hedrick, attorney with Sodemann & Associates in Champaign, requested an engineering agreement with the Hoopeston City Council Tuesday night.

The agreement would allow Hedrick to write a letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation, accepting \$180,248 of stimulus money for the project. Hoopeston had already been allotted \$400,000 from state and federal money to repair the federal aid route and must contribute \$100,000 - 20 percent of the project - from its Motor Fuel Tax money.

The city does not have to provide matching funds for the stimulus money, Hedrick said.

The project calls for milling and resurfacing the street from Main St. north to the city limit. Part of Market near ADM Grain may be resurfaced with concrete due to heavy truck traffic. Curbs and gutters will be replaced as much as possible, Hedrick said.

Sidewalk repairs, while needed, are not expected to be done as part of the project because of lack of funds; however, as the street is done, access to existing sidewalks will be fixed to make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, she said.

Hedrick said when the project was first pitched for federal money in 2005, funding was not scheduled to be done until 2013.

Assured of getting stimulus money for the road project, city officials hope to snag more stimulus money for other projects, including plans for a new ground storage water tank.

Alderman Bill Crusinberry said that while the city was



HEDRICK

approved for a \$1.25 million EPA loan, officials will resubmit the project for the stimulus program. If approved for government money for part of the project and a no-interest loan on the rest of the cost, Hoopeston could save \$500,000 to \$800,000, Crusinberry said.

Other projects being pitched include would a 12" water main down landfill road and around the hospital, which would allow for better flow in the area in case of a fire and repairs to water mains along Rt. 1.

In unrelated action, the council unanimously approved rezoning approximately 11 acres of land at the former Hoopeston Industrial Corporation site from light industrial to R-1, single family residential.

Originally, paperwork asked that the site be rezoned R-2, multi-family residential. However, Alderman Brandon Hamilton asked why R-2 was needed when the plan called for only single family homes.

A call was made to Kay Gregg, of Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, who told city attorney Paul Manion that R-1 rezoning would be fine.

Jean Minick, VISTA volunteer for housing, told the council that people are already calling to get their names on a list for houses in the development.

In unrelated business, the council:

Approved a request from The Realm of Shard, a medieval sword-fighting reenactment group, to use McFerrer Park for a renaissance fair June 5-7. Admission to the event will be free but donations will be taken to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Approved Travis McCalla, 26, and Ryan Clark, 27, as members of the Hoopeston Auxiliary Police.

See STIMULUS on other side

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Hoopeston Fire Department's 84th Annual
FIREMANS BALL
Saturday, March 21 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.
McFerren Park Civic Center
Music by Generation II
Tickets \$5/person
Must be 21 to get in



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Briefly

Book sale

Hoopeston Public Library is having a book sale through the month of March. Sale books are downstairs in the board meeting room.

Storm spotter training

A storm spotter class will be offered from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 21 at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main. The class is free and open to anyone wanting to be a volunteer storm spotter in Hoopeston and Vermilion County.

Baked potato/salad fundraiser

Hoopeston United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main, will host a Baked Potato Dinner and Salad Bar from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, March 22. Freewill donations

will be accepted to benefit Hoopeston Area Appalachian Service Project Youth Group.

Youth baseball registration forms available

The registration form for T-Ball through Pony League baseball may be picked up at Harris Agency Insurance (221 S. Market), Razor's Edge (708 W. Orange) or on-line at www.hoopestonareayouthbaseball.com through April 1st.

Softball registration

Hoopeston Area Girls Softball registration will be held from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 21 at Hoopeston City Hall. For information or for those who cannot attend but want to register, call Kelly Ankenbrand, 283-5452 or Rodney Ramos, 283-7891.

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Police News

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A 28-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 4:12 p.m. Tuesday that family members saw Daniel Strawser kick the door of the man's vehicle while it was parked in the 600 block of South Third St. Strawser was contacted and agreed to restitution. No charges were filed.

A 16-year-old Potomac girl reported at 10:25 p.m. Tuesday that someone damaged her vehicle while it

was parked in the 200 block of East Main.

Two Hoopeston men were charged with disorderly conduct after an incident at 12:14 a.m. Wednesday in the 400 block of East Thompson. Jeffery T. Smith and Donald W.J. Burgett, both 23, were charged on a complaint from a 23-year-old Hoopeston man.

Each was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City court.

Stimulus continued from other side

Approved a conditional use fro 208 S. Sixth St., allowing April Jones and Robin Lane to operate a preschool.

Approved closing parking spaces in front of The Sewing Boutique to allow an expandable semi truck to park there for a presentation on April 23.

Heard from Josh Caudle, Lorraine Theatres owner, who requested the city enforce ordinances allegedly being violated by the Downtown Motel, 200 W. Main.

Calling the motel "a pariah that's not being addressed," Caudle said he hopes to make the Lorraine II an arcade for children but that parents won't bring their children there - and people are afraid to walk the street at night - because of the motel.

He cited an existing ordinance about dangerous buildings. "I'm imploring you and requesting that someone enforce the laws we have on the books," he said, sitting down to applause from those at the meeting.

Corrections

Information on an accident Monday at 102 N. First Ave. was incorrect in Wednesday's issue. Larry Dunavan's 2001 Dodge Ram was parked and hit by a Freightliner semi driven by David Smith of Knoxville, Tenn.

Chelsea Rowe's name was omitted from a photo outline of new National Honor Society inductees at Hoopeston Area High School.

Just the Facts regrets the errors.

Hunting safety course

Vermilion County Sheriff's Department will conduct a Hunter Safety Course from 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 24 and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the North Market St. fire station in Hoopeston. For information or to register, call (217) 442-4080 by April 3.

Hoopeston Police Department will assist with the class, which is sponsored by Hoopeston Fire Department.

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 Area Community Unit School District #11 is seeking applications for a Bus Driver/Mechanic. Must have or be willing to acquire appropriate license. Applications are available in the Superintendent's Office, 615 E. Orange St., Hoopeston IL. Application deadline is Friday, April 3.

HOUSES FOR RENT

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

FOR RENT: East Young, 4 bedroom, 1 bath, newly remodeled, large yard, new appliances. \$525 per month + security deposit. For application call 217-283-5475 leave message.

3 BR, 1 bath, garage. Available immediately. \$450/mo. (217) 304-2145

2 bedroom house for rent in on McNeil. Stove and Fridge furnished, no pets. \$425 per month. Deposit and References required. Call 217-304-6547 for application.

2 bedroom house for rent in Rossville. Very nice, new paint, high efficiency furnace, great location. No pets, No Smoking. \$450 per month. Deposit and References required. Call 217-304-6547 for application.

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1989 Chevy pickup. V-8, 350 1/2 ton. 2 wheel drive. 170,000 miles. New gas tank, new paint. American Racing rims, 3 inch hood cal. Can be seen at 526 W. Orange, Hoopeston. Call (217) 497-5151

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