



**Hoopeston American Legion** 

502 E. Penn



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Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348 Lourdine Florek, owner

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# City council discusses proposed change in garbage pickup

Mayor Bill Crusinberry hopes the next several months may be used as a trial period for new trash cans in Hoopeston.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the Hoopeston City Council and residents discussed a request from Allied Waste to allow the company to go to 95-gallon trash totes. Totes would allow trash collectors to use trucks with automated arms to lift the totes. empty them and return them curbside.

Allied would provide the estimated 2,200 households with a free tote. Each tote costs \$40.

Crusinberry said Allied Waste wants to change to the new containers to save on Workman's Compensation claims from workers lifting heavy garbage, as well as dangers to workers as they cross streets to pick up trash.

Some council members have received calls about the proposed change. Alderman Brandon Hamilton received both positive and negative comments. Among the negative were comments from residents whose weekly trash fits in a grocery bag and for he said.

Alderman Jeff Johnson suggested residents with small amounts of garbage could consolidate theirs with their neighbors' in the totes.

The city's current contract with Allied expires on March 31, 2011. Between now and then, Crusinberry suggested the totes be used to see how the system works and what problems, if any, arise.

Residents asked questions that Crusinberry hopes to find answers to before the council votes on the proposal.



whom a 95-gallon tote would be "overkill," Alderman Jeff Johnson stands next to a 95 gallon tote that Allied Waste would like to use for residential trash pickup in Hoopeston. Johnson, at 5 ft., 10 inches, provides a reference for the size of the can.

> Gerald Minick wondered how he would get a tote to the curb after a heavy snow. Minick, who uses a wheelchair, said he currently takes small bags of trash to the curb. Another concern, he said, is that his yard slopes and the totes require a flat area to work properly for pickup. "Is the city going to have someone come along and pour

> > See COUNCIL on other side

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# Ham & Bean Dinner

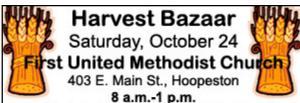
Saturday, Oct. 10 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

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Ed & Sheila

### Council continued from other side

2,300 slabs in front of people's houses," he asked. Crusinberry had a one-word answer: "No."

Resident Joel Bird wondered if cans could be marked with residents' names, especially if residents need to purchase a second tote. Also, since Allied will maintain the totes, Bird asked if the company would replace second totes purchased by residents which either break or are stolen.

Josh Caudle, owner of the Lorraine Theatre, who relocated from California, said the planned change has nothing to do with Workman's Comp claims. "It has to do with laying off the second man," he said.

Crusinberry said many trucks in the city have only one employee to drive and pick up trash.

Caudle provided information on the totes, saying they tip over easily, can handle limited weight and are not liked by many residents in communities in which they are used.

Crusinberry said that Marty Grant, Allied regional manager, inferred in conversations that if the city does not allow the change, the totes would be part of the company's bid for a new contract when the current one expires.

The city will seek bids from other companies, as well, but when the previous contract expired, Allied was the only company to bid, Crusinberry said.

In unrelated business, the council:

• Heard from Alderman Bill Goodwine that the city will forgive a lien against the former Hoopeston Family Restaurant property on Penn St. A lien had been filed against former owner Joe Jusufi to recoup mowing costs since the building burned several years ago.

Hoopeston Foods purchased the property at a tax sale, so the city will forgive the lien, totaling about \$7,500, as long as Hoopeston Foods fills in a hole that is a hazard.

• Modified an agreement between the city and Tad Ballantyne, who took ownership of the Willdon Building. In the current agreement, Ballantyne had until December 20 to spend at least \$60,000 to create an apartment on the fifth floor. However, Goodwine said, Ballantyne received a \$56,000 estimate to tear out the fifth floor for construction.

Ballantyne requested a one-year extension, which would allow him to have that work done, as well as finish the apartment and get an architectural drawing to promote an as yet undecided venture on the first floor.

- Approved spending not more than \$12,000 on a new thermal imaging camera for Hoopeston Fire Department. The current one, purchased seven years ago, cost \$14,000, Hamilton said. The camera will be purchased from Environmental Safety Group.
- Heard from VISTA volunteer Jean Minick that 30 people have signed a waiting list for the Affordable Workforce Housing development.
- Also, Minick and Crusinberry stressed the need for residents to fill out an income survey which will allow the city to apply for infrastructure grants, totaling \$100,000 for design and \$350,000 for construction, for such things as the city's flooding problem.

The survey has few questions, Minick said: number of people in the household; whether any are 62 or older; whether any have physical or developmental disabilities; whether the resident owns or rents the property; and whether the household income is 30 percent, 50 percent or 80 percent of the median income for the area.

The median income for Vermilion County is \$50,300. The percentage would depend on household income and number of people in the household. For example, a four-person household at 30 percent would be \$16,300, 50 percent would be \$27,150; and 80 percent would be \$43,450.

Minick is still looking for volunteers to help conduct the survey. Anyone interested may contact her at 283-7873.

### Fire Calls



Two people were taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital for observation after Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 8:21 p.m. Tuesday for an activated carbon monoxide detector in the 200 block of East Lincoln.

### Weather



Showers today and tonight. High 60, low 50. Tomorrow, thunderstorms likely. High 57, low 40.

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

# **Classifieds**

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Hoopeston: 704 W. Lincoln. 3 BR, central air, basement. \$475/mo. References. For application: (217) 304-3477

#### RUMMAGE SALES

- 322 N. 7th St., Hoopeston (Platteter residence). Oct. 10, 8 a.m.. 4 family sale. Rocking chair, girls clothes (toddler-teen) ladies & men's clothes, home décor, Longaberger products
- 618 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston. Fri., 8-1, Sat., 8-noon. Clothing (men, women, children) toys, Halloween & Christmas decorations, misc.
- 843 E. Elm, Hoopeston. Fri., 4-7, Sat., 8-2. 3 family moving sale. Tools, household, electronics, children's clothing, toys, games, puzzles

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