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 Thursday, October 22, 2009
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City Council approves purchase to spread holiday cheer

Hoopeston officials on Tuesday approved spending nearly \$2,000 to brighten the downtown during the Christmas season.

Alderman Bill Goodwine suggested the council spend the money on two decorations, garland that will stretch from one side of Main St. to the other, with a lighted wreath in the center.

The purchase is contingent on the decorations being able to withstand the wind and also on an unnamed organization's plan to put a 25' decorated Christmas tree in the middle of Main and Market.

Aldermen Ed Lotz, Brandon Hamilton and Jeff Johnson voted against the purchase.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Approved the annexation of 1103 S. Second Ave.
- Discussed changes to the rummage sale ordinance, which would limit the number of rummage sales a resi-

dent has to three per year.

• Approved using new trash containers on a trial basis until the city's contract with Allied Waste ends. Allied will deliver the containers, which residents may use voluntarily.

• Heard from Johnson that truck traffic will be detoured for Hoopeston Main Street's Spooktacular on October 27. Trucks will be routed to Sixth Avenue to Thompson.

• Heard from VISTA volunteer Jean Minick that tax credits have been sold for the Affordable Workforce Housing development. The sale is waiting approval from the Illinois Housing Development Authority, which is expected to be granted next month.

• Heard from Amy Marchant, CEO of CRIS Senior Services, about the Corn Cruiser, a van which makes multiple stops in Hoopeston, Rossville, Bismarck and Danville.

Rossville fire chief defends department's training efforts

ROSSVILLE—Village Fire Chief Lloyd Smith took exception Monday night with press reports that firefighters lack of training is the reason for an Insurance Services Office (ISO) plan to downgrade the department.

Currently, Rossville Fire Protection District is rated at five, but ISO plans to drop the rating to six. Ratings are used to determine insurance rates for residents and businesses.

Speaking at Monday's village board meeting, Smith told trustees the fire department has worked with ISO since February 2008 on a review of the department in three areas: dispatching, done by Hoopeston Police Department; the fire department, which includes firefighters and equipment; and water supply.

He admitted that ISO standards for training are difficult for a volunteer department to meet. Firefighters

must have 240 hours of training annually. The biggest problem is not training, however, Smith said. It is lack of good water flow.

The department received a three on dispatching, a five on the department and a six on water supply after a test done at Summit and Stewart, where water pressure is not the strongest, he said.

The village scored 16.58 out of 40 on the water supply test. "That's one of the things that's dragging us down," Smith said.


Citing a recent fire on Gilbert, Smith said the blaze was "rocking and rolling by the time we got there." Firemen had to drag hoses three and four blocks to get a good flow to fight the fire, he added.

Smith asked the village for help in getting an engi-

See FIRE on other side

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 **Thursday is \$1²⁵ beer night at V.F.W.**
Also serving our BIG TACOS!
Starting at noon
Public Welcome Benefits welcome!
Corner of Fourth Ave. & Orange, Hoopeston

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443-2999
Transportation to and from Hoopeston to Danville

Try the Corn Cruiser for Free!
From now until October 30th, all rides are free.
Buses leave Hoopeston at 6:45am, 11:00am & 3:00pm
Call CRIS for exact times and schedule information

Fire *continued from other side*

neer's study done on improving water flow in the village.

The department has taken steps to make sure the rating stays at a five. Inactive firemen were dropped from the roster and department officers are redoing paperwork to submit to ISO. If the department does not receive a five after the changes, they will request another audit within a year, Smith said.

The issue started because of a September 2, 2009 letter to Mayor Terry Prillaman from Derrick Thomas, ISO community mitigation analyst. The letter cited "reduced credits for your training program, operators and ladders," which resulted in a "retrogression."

In unrelated business, trustees:
• Heard from Dennis Barragree, streets/alleys commit-

Weather



Rain likely today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 62, low 48. Tomorrow, high 60, low 42.

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

Halloween Costume Contest
VFW Post 4826
Hoopeston (217) 283-5025
Saturday, Oct. 31 7 p.m.-1 a.m.
50/50s Free Juke Box
Chili-n-hot dogs
Shot Specials: Blue Kamikazi \$2.50
Apple Pie \$2.50, Jello Shots \$1
Drive Responsibly - Get a Designated Driver

Come enjoy
Baby Back Ribs
Friday 5-?
BJ's Pump
Bar & Package Liquor Store
1023 W. Main, Hoopeston




tee chairman, that the village is waiting on a culvert to fix a drainage problem at Randy Duke's home on Benton.

• Set trick-or-treat hours as 5:30-8 p.m. on Halloween
Youngsters are asked to go only to homes with a porch light on.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Countryside Mall. Thurs., Fri., Sat., 10-2. Scarface t-shirts \$8; Scarface pictures half price; cancer socks, diabetic socks & others; fabric reduced, wallpaper \$4 & \$8/roll; borders \$1 & up; cake decorating items. As long as the weather stays good, we'll be open!

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Downstairs non-smoking apt: 2-3 bedroom, 1 bath, service pets only, includes water/garbage. First and last month rent plus deposit. For application call 217-283-6463.

HELP WANTED

Quality Assurance Technician
Local food manufacturing plant looking for a quality minded, GMP driven individual to join the Quality team full time.
GMP experienced, responsible for paperwork reviews and order accuracies. Microsoft applications background a plus. Site security checks and corrective actions and other additional responsibilities as directed. 2-3 years experience desired, with a minimum of HS Diploma/equivalent.
Mail resumes' to Human Resources Manager, PO Box 405, Hoopeston, IL 60942 or fax resume' to (217) 283-5823 attn Human Resources Manager.

HOUSES FOR SALE

2 story, 3-4 BR house on corner lot in Rossville. Great neighborhood, 1 block from grade school. Asking \$29,500. Will consider selling on contract. Call (217) 213-1400

HOUSES FOR RENT

Two bedroom duplex for rent in Hoopeston. Very nice, stove and fridge included. No smoking, No pets. References and Deposit required. \$400 per month. Call 217-304-6547.

RUMMAGE SALES

Inside out sale! 846 E. Lincoln, Hoopeston. Fri., noon-5, Sat., 8-1. Lots of sewing supplies, books, tools, knickknacks, etc., etc. No furniture

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