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Monday, November 23, 2009

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www.justthefacts.net

Area contractors provide input into planned registration

Hoopeston officials are considering a plan that would require contractors to register their services in an effort to protect residents from shoddy work.

About 25 people, mostly representing local contracting firms, attended a meeting Thursday night to discuss what the registration process might include. Hosted by Alderwoman Susan Comstock, the meeting covered why some officials believe the registra-

tion process is needed, as well as potential fees and other issues.

Comstock said the main purpose of the proposal is to make sure contractors maintain sufficient insurance to protect citizens and ensure contractors are proficient in their fields. The measure would also protect local con-

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Comstock, the meeting Representatives of area contracting firms listen as Alderwoman Susan Comstock outlines covered why some offiaplan for contractor registration in Hoopeston.

tractors' businesses, she added.

Comstock, armed with copies of such laws in other communities, said other communities have much stricter standards than Hoopeston. "We have the least," she said. "In fact, we have none."

By state law, roofers must be certified, and heating and air conditioning contractors already must register in the city. However, construction contractors do not.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said the issue was discussed about four years ago, but was never followed up on.

"Something is going to happen this time," Comstock said, "It has to,"

Crusinberry, Comstock and Alderman Bill McElhaney stressed the matter was being discussed to protect citizens. Crusinberry related a story of a contractor falling from a roof, then suing the homeowner and said the measure is aimed to protect people against such things.

See CONTRACTORS on other side

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Bombs Away shots \$4
Apple Pie shots \$2.50
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Have a Happy Thanksgiving from
VFW Post 4826



Police News



Ulises Delos-Santos, 21, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 9:41 p.m. Thursday in the 500 block of East McCracken. He was charged with driving while license suspended and was released on a notice to appear.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11 a.m. Friday at the Secretary of State drivers license facility, 825 W. Elm. Police said Louise Bush, of Danville, pulled a 2005 Buick into the facility, did not stop in time and hit a sign.

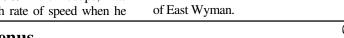
Three people were injured in an accident at 8:05 p.m. Friday in the 500 block of South Fourth St.

Donald G. Hoppers, of Watseka, and passengers Gretchen Gindler and Torrey Robinson, both of Hoopeston, were taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Hoppers and Robinson were later transferred to Carle, where they were treated and released.

Police said Hoppers, in a 1989 Buick coupe, was northbound, allegedly at a high rate of speed when he lost control of the vehicle and struck a sign and two trees in the median. The car flipped and came to rest in the northbound lane.

He was ticketed for reckless driving, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

Joshua A.C. Watson, 25, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 2:56 a.m. Saturday in the 700 block





Hoopeston Area grade schools

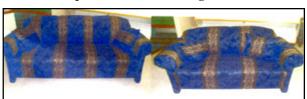
MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, green beans, applesauce, cookie

TUESDAY: Ham & cheese sandwich, chips, pears, grape juice; Maple: cheese pizza salad, pears

WEDNESDAY: Pizza Hut, salad, peaches; Maple: ham & cheese sandwich, chips, mixed fruit, grape juice

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: No school

Hoopeston Area Middle/High Schools



Hoopeston Multi Agency

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For more information, call (217) 283-5544

Lunch Menus

MONDAY: Taco Max Snax or chicken quesadilla, salad, applesauce, salsa

TUESDAY: Pizza Hut, salad, mixed fruit

WEDNESDAY: Chicken patty or ham & cheese, green beans, applesauce, cookie

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: No school

CRIS/SAMS Meals

MONDAY: Ham & beans, California mix, hot cinna-

mon applesauce, 3 bean salad, corn bread

TUESDAY: Chicken tetrazzini, peas, carrots, applesauce, bran muffin

WEDNESDAY: Breaded fish, rosemary roasted potatoes, Italian blend vegetables, applesauce, wheat bread

THURSDAY: Peppered beef patty, loaded potato, mixed greens, grape juice, wheat bread

FRIDAY: Closed

Contractors continued from other side

Stan Steiner was less than thrilled with the idea of more government involvement. "When is the government going to end," he asked. "Have you had a really, really big problem?

Comstock said such a measure is needed even if only one person had such an experience.

Steiner responded "I think we have enough govern-

Contractor Harry Johnson wondered why the proposal wasn't expanded to include others, such as painting and landscaping contractors. "I agree with what you're doing but I want everybody who provides a service to be licenses if I have to be licensed," he said.

In part, the proposal would cut down on unlicensed contractors from working in the city. Roofer Doc Wallace said that could be good or bad and suggested some people to construction work to put food on the table for their families.

Asked by Comstock what a fair fee would be, Wallace jokingly suggested \$1, then said \$25. Those attending talked about the possibility of having a higher fee for out-of-town contractors.

Comstock said the fee chosen will depend, in part, on what the city's expenses are to implement the program.

Contractor Mark Wagoner asked how the program would be enforced. "That's a good question," Comstock said. "It's not going to start today or tomorrow."

Wagoner said while he appreciated what city officials are trying to do, "but I don't agree with it." He wondered whether all contractors who will be involved in the North Market Street project and the planned hospital expansion will also have to register.

Final decisions were not made at the meeting. Another session is set to be held in January. A date will be announced in the future.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 58. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 41. Tomorrow, chance of rain. High 53, low 37.

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

He was charged with battery and criminal trespass to property on complaints from a 25-year-old Hoopeston man and 24-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged Watson forced his way into the woman's apartment, then battered the man.

Watson was taken into custody and later released on \$100 cash bond.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 6:04 p.m. Saturday at Thompson and Fifth. An unknown eastbound driver hit a westbound 2000 Dodge driven by Sherri McCormick of Hoopeston, then left the scene.

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Classifieds

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