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## Contractors further question planned registration ordinance

The suggested fee for proposed ordinance that would require contractors who work in Hoopeston to register with the city has been lowered, but some local contractors still question the need for the measure.

At a civic improvement committee meeting Thursday, Alderwoman Susan Comstock said the proposed fee has been lowered from \$100 annually to \$50, after contractors complained about the higher fee at a previous meeting.

As it stands, the proposed ordinance will mandate \$1 million of insurance, prompting Tom Sheridan, owner See **CONTRACTORS** on other side



*Singing a song*

Mara Sutton, Hoopeston Area High School student, prepares to sing "L.O.V.E." to guests at Thursday's senior citizen Sweetheart Banquet at the high school. The event is sponsored by the student council and included dinner and other entertainment by Chelsea Rowe, Noah Featherstone and the school's jazz band.

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**Contractors** continued from other side

of Sheridan’s TV and Appliances, to question why the city will mandate more insurance than is required by many companies with whom contractors do business. “Yours shouldn’t be higher than theirs,” he said.

Comstock answered that the increase in premiums to have \$1 million coverage would average \$100 to \$180 more per year, according to insurance representatives.

Rich Thompson, owner of Rich’s Lawn Care, joined the discussion, saying “if you’re putting your trust in insurance companies, you’re putting it in the wrong place.

Thompson also wanted to be sure that if he has to register, everyone who provides the same service has to. “If I’ve gotta pay, every Tom, Dick and Harry’s gotta pay,” he said.



Photo courtesy of Carl Ankenbrand

**Assembly Hall bound**

Robbie Irvin, left, is recognized Saturday for his second place win in the 152 lb. class at the Illinois High School Association Sectionals at Plano. Irvin will wrestle Friday in the state finals at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall.

Stan Steiner, owner of Steiner Farm Drainage Service, concurred. “This is nothing more than making us pay for the privilege of working in the City of Hoopeston,” he said. “Everybody ought to pay.”

That sentiment was echoed by contractor Mark Wag- oner. “Why should we have to pay to work,” he asked. Furthermore, he added, enforcing existing building codes would eliminate the need for the new ordinance.

Civic committee member Alderman Bill Goodwine said a flaw in the ordinance is that “contractor” is not sufficiently defined. “We don’t think a 12-year-old is a contractor, but what about 12½,” he asked. “You can’t pass an ordinance that’s so undefined. If you can’t define it, it’s a volunteer program.”

Sheridan said the ordinance will place a burden on contractors. “I think \$50 is too high to come in here and have to give you,” he said. “Money’s not growing up

**Briefly**

**Potato bar fundraiser**

HAHS Student Council will be sponsoring a potato bar at the boys basketball pack-the-place Friday night from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym. The cost will be \$5 for one potato or \$7 for two potatoes, all the toppings you want, a beverage, and a dessert.

**Benefit set**

A benefit for the Dewey Petty family will be held from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday at Kelley’s Pub. The event will include dinner, bake sale, auction, 50/50 drawing and music by Draxis, Sombra, Stonethorne and Furion.

**Youth football meeting**

Hoopeston Youth Football will meet at 6 p.m. Sun- day, Feb. 28, in the Hoopeston Public Library base- ment. Anyone interested in being an officer or board member, please attend.

**Obituaries**

**GREENBERG** - Russell J. Greenberg,78, of Naper- ville, died at 11:41 a.m. Friday, Feb. 12,2010, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

there on Main Street.”

Contractors complained the ordinance does not cover commercial contractors nor businesses such as Lowe’s, that offer installation to customers.

Several contractors talked about too much government involvement. “The biggest problem, Sue, is you’re 20 years ahead of your time,” Steiner said. “Younger guys will be brainwashed into thinking the government ought to take care of you and they won’t say a word.”

Sheridan said the ordinance might have been easier to pass a year ago but “now people are pretty much tired of the government. We’re moving towards a Socialist gov- ernment and now is not a good time to be bringing out more regulations. When people came over here and wrote the Constitution, I don’t think they had this in mind.”

Comstock said the ordinance is needed to protect resi-

**New Books at the Library**

**Children’s library**

**Fiction:**

- Erak’s Ransom by John Flanagan
- It’s Spring, Dear Dragon by Margaret Hillert
- It’s Winter, Dear Dragon by Margaret Hillert
- Fire and Ice by Erin Hunter
- “I Have a Little Problem” said the Bear by Heinz Janisch
- Mommy Loves Me by John & Wendy
- Love is a Good Thing to Feel by Barbara M. Joosse
- Never Talk to Strangers by Irma Joyce
- Lanie by Jane Kurtz (American Girl Series)
- Black Beauty adapted by Sharon Lerner
- I Want to be Somebody New! By Robert Lopshire
- Just a Little Sick by Mercer Mayer
- Wiggens Learns His Manners: at the Four Seasons Restaurant by Leslie McGuirk

**Weather**

Mostly cloudy today and tonight. High 29,low 17. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 31, low 16. For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

dents, but Goodwine disagreed. “After the first meeting, what I came away with is ‘where does government stop,’” he said. “My mom will be 100 in June. Is she better off with me protecting her or the government? Government can’t protect everybody on everything, so why this one? Why do we need this?”

“Because we do,” Comstock answered. “We have to make a start somewhere and I think this is the right first step for Hoopeston.”

Another committee meeting will be held to review the finished ordinance before the issue is brought before the full council. A date for that meeting has not been set.

**Police News**

Traci L. Thilmony, 47, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 11:58 p.m. Monday at Parkview Court. She was charged with battery and criminal damage to property after police responded to call of a woman trying to make entry. Additionally, she was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after police allegedly found a drug pipe in her possession.

Thilmony was released on notices to appear.

**Classifieds**

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