



Pesos de la cena 84 del Taco

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# City council approves 15 percent increase in water rates

Reserve funds and increased water rates will help Hoopeston officials keep a balanced budget.

Hoopeston City Council unanimously approved a 15 percent increase in residential water rates at Tuesday night's meeting.

Alderman Bill McElhaney, water/sewer committee chairman, said the hike translates to about 50 cents on the basic rate and that customers whose bills have been \$11.50 would see an increase to \$13.76.

Another 50 cent increase was approved for industrial/ wastewater fees, while a \$5 fee will be implemented for customer-requested shut-offs. Customers will also be



Sponsored by Women Making a Difference 4-8 p.m. Friday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday Hoopeston American Legion 502 E. Penn

# **18 vendors**

Baked goods served Saturday morning, along with coffee & orange juice.

Pulled pork BBQ sandwiches, chips, dessert drinks available 11 a.m.-1 p.m. One-stop Mother's Day Shopping! charged \$25 for reconnect fees, \$30 for connections done after hours.

McElhaney said rates have not raised in more than five years. The extra income will allow the water department to "do the things we've been putting off and putting off," he said.

Rate increases will help keep the water department in the black while reserve funds will keep many other budget categories on the plus side.

According to the 2012-13 budget summary, Hoopeston expects \$2,265,250 in income and \$2,269,800 in expenses, a \$4,550 deficit. A total of \$155,000 was needed from reserves to cover the budget, said Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman.

Income includes levied amounts for things such as parks, civil defense, police, ambulance and road and bridge, as well as money transferred from intra-city funds such as depreciation, Tax Increment Financing, and special reserves.

Goodwine said departments had to cut things like accruals for new equipment, which was lessened by \$75,000. "That's not a good thing to do because things are still wearing out," he said.

In unrelated business, the council approved 2013 Motor Fuel Tax work, which includes milling and resurfacing Main Street between Market and Third, repairing Third Street from Main to Seminary, Third Street and McCracken at Cheese Park, and the street in Honeywell Park. "Honeywell Park has been neglected for a number of years," said Randy Carter, street/alley committee chairman. "It's been on the list six or seven years. It's finally come to the top."

The total approved for work was \$224,000, with \$141,000 coming from Motor Fuel Tax. An additional See COUNCIL on other side



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# Organizer hopes Cinco de Mayo event will unite Mexican, Anglo cultures in Hoopeston

Bill Goodwine has high hopes for Saturday's Cinco de Mayo celebration.

First, he hopes the celebration, which will be held from 4-8 p.m. at St. Anthony parish center, will be fun.

Next, he hopes the fundraiser for the church youth group's summer work trip to New Orleans will yield funds needed for youngsters to make the trip.

Last, but not least, he hopes Hoopeston's Hispanic and Anglo populations can have fun and improve relations between the groups.

Goodwine talked of Hoopeston's Hispanic residents, some her for three generations or more, and St. Anthony's Mexican parishioners, which include people from Hoopeston and Danville. "You notice at church that the whites sit there and the Hispanics sit there," he said, pointing in opposite directions. "We thought it would be fun to get everybody together and we could make a buck here and there."

Much of the celebration is free, including Mexican

## *Council* continued from other side

\$84,000 from reserve funds will be spent improving roads in Floral Hill Cemetery, Carter said.

Approval for a resolution covering the projects and costs required by Illinois Department of Transportation was approved despite objection from city attorney Scott Perkins who suggested the costs should be spelled out between MFT and city-paid work. Engineer Ellen Hedrick said the IDOT form does not leave room for changes and urged approval. Carter suggested the resolution be approved with a note in the meeting minutes about the financial breakdown. The resolution was approved 7-1 with Alderwoman Susan Comstock voting against.

In unrelated business, the council:

• Approved allowing Mayor Bill Crusinberry to sign an agreement with Key On Communications for an antenna on the water tower. Key On purchased DTN, which had an antenna on the tower.

• Improved a new Fraternal Order of Police contract.

• Learned Anthony Linares is a probationary police officer. He will attend police training classes at Belleville.

music provided by a DJ, Mexican dancing - in which Goodwine hopes "Gringos" will participate - and piñatas for children.

Fundraising will come from the food, which includes tacos, platters with tacos, beans and rice, and homemade salsa.

Cinco de Mayo celebrates the 1861 defeat of 8,000 French forces by the 4,000-member Mexican army at the Mexican forts of Loreto and Guadalupe, near Puebla.

The French, under the leadership of Emperor Napoleon III, did not want the United States to become a world power. Their intent in attacking Mexico was to set up a French base in Mexico to supply the Confederate army and help them win the Civil War. The Mexican victory on May 5, 1862 delayed the French from supplying the Confederacy for an entire year. That allowed the United States the time to build a powerful army. The grand army smashed the Confederates at Gettysburg just 14 months after the

• Learned Cathy Alinovi, a Pine Village, Ind., veteri-

narian, purchased the local vet's office. Alderman Ed

Lotz said Alinovi plans to hire a veterinarian for the

Hoopeston office, which is expected to open by May

• Tabled action on seeking bids for the extended Route

An original estimate of \$125,000 to \$129,000 mush-

roomed to \$147,000. At the April 17 meeting, the coun-

cil discussed rebidding, but after talking with an engi-

neer, Crusinberry said the work could end up costing

\$205,000, including the cost of advertising for bids, plus

the city would need to get IDOT approval as a new pro-

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Low 65. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 84, low 63.

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• Met Sherry Klemme, the new humane officer.

1 water main project from Main to Crown Ford.

15.

ject.

Weather

battle of Puebla, essentially ending the civil War. So, the Mexicans not only saved their nation, but they influenced the outcome of the U.S. Civil war as well. If the Mexicans had not defeated the French at Puebla on May 5, 1862, the United States would never have become the power it is today.

## **Obituaries**

**REUTTER** - Don E. Reutter, 89, of Cissna Park, died Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at Faith Place, Danforth. Funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be in Cissna Park Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, and 9:30-10:30 a.m. Friday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church, Faith Place in Danforth, Autism Program of Illinois or donor's choice.



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