

The Karate Club 

Bill & Susan McGee
upstairs of Multi Agency
206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston

(217) 497-3916 (217) 497-7307

Email: publish@justthefacts.net Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348
Lourdine Florek, owner

Just the Facts®

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Bar owner seeks change to accommodate new gaming law

Hoopeston aldermen will have to decide if they are willing to modify city ordinances after changes in the state's gambling laws.

In 2009, state officials passed the \$31 billion capital

bill. Included in that bill, as a means of generating revenue, was approval for state-licensed video poker games in bars, fraternal and veterans organizations and truck -


See GAMING on other side



New wheels

Valarie Paulson, left, of Family Healthcare of Hoopeston, presents Chalmers Flint with a check for \$1,200, to be used for new tires on the Hoopeston Multi Agency van. Flint, who is HMA executive director, said he hopes to be able to keep the van on the road for several thousands more miles before having to replace it.

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Gaming continued from other side

stops that meet certain requirements, said Teresa Szybowicz, regional account manager at Accel Entertainment in Chicago.

Szybowicz attended Tuesday night's meeting with Andy Braden, owner of BJ's Pump. Braden would like to install the new poker games in his establishment.

Szybowicz explained that each permitted establishment may have up to five machines. Additionally, each establishment will have an automated payout kiosk, similar to an ATM, she said. All machines will be tied to the state, similar to lottery ticket machines.

Currently, the "go live" date for the video gaming is August 1. Thirty days after video poker starts, it will be a felony for any business to possess existing gaming machines, Szybowicz said.

Under state law, Illinois will get 30 percent of the gross total. Of that, local municipalities that have approved video gaming will receive five percent.

Terminal operators, such as Accel Entertainment, and establishments, such as the Pump, will each receive 35 percent of net profits. From those, they will pay Scientific Games International for related fees. SGI signed an agreement with Illinois to provide video gaming services to the state.

Szybowicz said the maximum bet will be \$2 per spin, with a maximum payout of \$500 per spin. Winners will receive tickets from their machine, which they will then take to the payout kiosk to claim their winnings. Payouts range from 96-98 percent.

Alderman Bill Goodwine asked what the downside of allowing video gaming is, to which Szybowicz responded "the person that gambles away their welfare check." However, she added that since there is already gambling, the new law will allow Illinois and its communities to do something good with the money generated by it. Also, she said, research indicates video gaming does not increase theft or other crimes.

Alderman Randy Carter pointed out that if Hoopeston doesn't allow it, residents will drive to other communities that do allow it and those communities will reap the benefits.

According to the Illinois Gaming Board website, as of May 14, BJ's Pump is the only Hoopeston business to apply for the new license. Four other Vermilion County establishments have applied, including Dale's Place in

Sidell; JJ's 610 Tap and Little Nugget in Danville and The Other Place II, Rossville.

Iroquois County has 11 applicants, in towns including Watseka, Gilman, Sheldon, Ashkum, Onarga and Buckley.

Szybowicz said she will provide to city attorney Scott Perkins examples of ordinances from other communities that are allowing video gaming. Often, she said, officials simply amend existing ordinances against gaming to include words allowing state-approved gambling.

In unrelated business, the council:

- approved a \$30,000 grant to a planned DACC satellite campus in Hoopeston.
- Mayor Bill Crusinberry said the money will be taken from the city's revolving loan fund, as part of a grant for the ongoing water main project. According to guidelines in force at the time of the city's application, the revolving loan fund could have no more than \$15,000, so Crusinberry suggested the DACC grant.

Goodwine said the city could either give the money to DACC or to the state, which would make the city repay \$30,000 of its water main grant.

• Heard from Alderman Carl Ankenbrand that free swim day will be held on Memorial Day, May 28. That day, pool passes will be on sale at 20 percent off. For example, a one-person pass, which normally costs \$95, will be on sale for \$80, he said. Daily admission cost is \$3 for children and \$3.50 for adults, an 50 cent increase.

• Approved spending not more than \$5,700 to Russ Leigh & Associates for the annual audit.

• Approved vehicle impound fees of \$300 for a first offense and \$500 for a second offense. The ordinance applies to motor vehicles, including golf carts.

• Heard from Steve Baker, water superintendent, about boil orders along the Main Street water main project. He and the council discussed ways of letting residents know when a boil order is in effect.

Some residents complained that they did not know about the ordinance but Baker said it was a precautionary measure. "By no means was anybody at risk of drinking dangerous water," he said.

• Heard from Crusinberry, who praised Officer Chris Kelnhofer who, last Saturday, saw someone pull flowers from the newly-planted pots downtown and took time to try to replant the pot.

Police News



A red Huffy bicycle was found at 9:55 a.m. Monday at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Ryan D. Young, Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 3:20 p.m. Monday at Hoopeston Area High School. He was charged with driving while license revoked and was released on a notice to appear.

Fire Calls



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 9:31 p.m. Sunday to a field fire on Thompson just west of Route 1. The fire was extinguished by the department.

Weather



Sunny today. High 77. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 52. Tomorrow, sunny. High 83, low 62.

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