









# Hoopeston's new nursing home: the good, the changes, the bad

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series on changes at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing home, based on an interview with Harry Brockus, Hoopeston Regional Health Center CEO.

### The good news

With construction done and a new water line installed and pressurized, Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home Residents will move into their new home in the next few weeks.

The new nursing home will be locally owned by a new non-profit corporation, Hoopeston Retirement Village, Inc., (HRV) but managed by Bloomington-based Heritage Enterprises.

Harry Brockus, Hoopeston Regional Health Center CEO, announced the management deal Tuesday in a letter to residents and family members.

While other companies were looked at, Heritage was "the best fit" because it only manages Illinois facilities, including Colonial Manor in Danville, said Brockus, adding the company has "probably some of the highest quality (Illinois Department of Public Health) reports."

Brockus' letter stressed improvements in care in the areas of fall management of residents, infection prevention and nutritional support.

Hoopeston "probably (has) the highest quality building in the state and we believe Heritage will help us align with that philosophy," he said

Under the agreement, Heritage Enterprises will lease the building and equipment, paying a monthly fee to HRV, along with end-of-the-year profit sharing.

### The changes

The change of ownership of Hoopeston's hospital and clinics, which should be concluded by October 1, did not include the nursing home or Country Terrace. Along with a \$6 million, 40-year USDA loan at 3.75 percent interest, Hoopeston Retirement Village received \$2.7 million from Carle Foundation as part of its integration with Hoopeston Regional Health Center's medical facilities. Brockus said the HRV board will probably use \$2 million of the total to pay down the loan and leave the rest in savings for emergencies.

HRV board members include Loni Gress, president; Brockus, vice president; and Dick Read, secretary; along with Greg Lane and Angie Totheroh.

Brockus, who will remain HRHC CEO after the Carle transition, is listed as the corporation agent. He said he wanted to be on the new board "because I'm a member of the community with health care experience."

Beth Totheroh will be the nursing home's new administrator. Jackie Johnson is the current administrator, as well as HRHC's chief clinical officer, a position she will maintain in the Carle transition, Brockus said.

Current nursing home employees will transfer to the new building; any staff changes will be decided by Heritage Enterprises.

### Why a new building

The new nursing home will feature 75 private rooms, offering residents and their families more privacy, along with two lounges, a secured patio, dining area, recreation room and area for physical, speech and occupational therapies.

While it will offer more modern amenities to residents, the main reason the new nursing home was built was because of deterioration to the existing one. Brockus said the existing nursing home has been cited by state licensing agencies for deficiency issues that could not be resolved without major renovations or building a new facility. The concrete and steel construction, erected in

See NURSING HOME on other side



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## -Briefly

### Senior get-together

The monthly Rossville senior citizen gathering will be at 1 p.m. Thursday. Come stay cool at the Rossville fire station. All seniors are welcome!

### Fans available

Hoopeston Multi Agency is giving fans to senior LI-HEAP customers only. Fans are provided by Community Action Agency; 18 are still available.

### HAHS youth soccer camp

HAHS Youth Soccer Camp will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. July 30-Aug. 2 at the high school soccer fields. Cost is \$35. Forms and additional information are available at www.cornjerkersoccer.com and clicking on youth camp.

### Girls basketball practice

John Greer fifth and sixth grade basketball practice starts Monday, Aug. 6. Practice will run from 8-9:30 a.m. All athletes must have a physical on file with the school before staring practice. Bring a water bottle and tennis shoes.

### VBS

Rossville Church of Christ will hold vacation bible

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Oran Probasco, 40, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 7:39 p.m. Tuesday in the 500 block of South First Avenue. He was charged with aggravated assault on a complaint from a 28-year-old Hoopeston man. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in lieu of bond.

### Nursing home continued from other side

1972, "suffered aspects of time" and was within five years of being completely replaced, he said.

There being no room on the current campus for new construction, the decision was made to move it to the site of the new nursing home, on Route 1 across from Anthem Chevrolet.

### The bad news

Under new Medicaid rules, which define a non-profit entity as one that provides some charitable (free) care means Hoopeston's nursing home is expected to lose its tax-exempt status. student from 6-8 p.m. Aug. 6-10. The theme is "Babylon, Daniel's Courage in Captivity!" Classes are open to children in preschool through fifth grade and are located at 514 E. Attica. For more information or to pre-register, visit www.rossvillecc.com.

### School supply give-away

Morning Star Ministries, 201 N. Chicago, Rossville, will host a school supply give away from 1-3 p.m. August 5. Many basic supplies for Hoopeston Area, Rossville, Armstrong-Potomac and Bismarck-Henning districts will be available on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call (217) 748-6196 or (217) 201-5045.

### Cornjerker golf outing Saturday

Hoopeston Area All-Sports Boosters will host the ninth annual Cornjerker Golf Outing on July 28, at Hubbard Trail Country Club in Rossville.

#### Rain date is July 29.

It will be a 4-person scramble playing best ball. Tee times are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. with registration one hour prior. Cost is \$55, including 18 holes, cart and lunch.

Prizes will be awarded for men's and women's longest drive, closest to the pin, and longest putt. Cash prizes will be given to the first place scratch team and the first place team using the Peoria handicap, and a chance to win a car for a hole is back again, thanks to Hoopeston Crown Ford and Star Chrysler. Mulligans will be also be available.

Proceeds benefit HA student athletes. For information or to sign up, contact Athletic Director Kevin Root at (217) 283-6660.

Brockus would not estimate what the nursing home's property tax liability might be. "I'm not going to hazard a guess," he said. "I'll wait for Susie (Sheppard, Grant Township assessor) to tell me." He added he expects the amount to be "significant."

Additionally, state officials approved decreased Medicaid payments to nursing homes and are delinquent on payments already owed. Medicaid payments are capped by the state so the only way for the nursing home to meet its financial obligations is to

### Vendors wanted

Rossville Community Organization is sponsoring the 35th annual Street Bazaar in downtown Rossville on

### Obituaries

**BAINBRIDGE** - William Bainbridge, 74, of Rossville, formerly of Las Vegas, Nev., died at 5:46 p.m. Thursday, July 19, 2012, at home. Services will be in Las Vegas. Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston, assisted the family.

**STANTON** - Evelyn Marletta (Morris) Stanton, 66, of Rankin, died Tuesday, July 24, 2012, at home. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to family wishes.

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size 66' x 132'. Zoning R-2. Sealed Bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 20, 2112, at the Rossville Municipal Building at 120 E. Attica St. Rossville, IL. 60963. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject and all bids. Passed and Approved this 16th day of July 2012. Terry S. Prillaman, Mayor Chris White, Village Clerk Published July 19, July 26, August 2, 2012 **RUMMAGE SALES** HOOPESTON: 840 E. Chestnut. Fri., 4-6 p.m., Sat., 7-noon. Lots of misc! Rain or Shine! HOOPESTON: 927 Birch Lane. Fri. only, 7-11 am. Dog kennels, tables, propane burner, comforters, many more items. HOOPESTON: 414 N. Seventh Ave. Fri., 8-11 a.m., 4-7 p.m. and Sat., 8-11 a.m. Boys clothes size 14-5/6, men/women's clothes, various sizes boys shoes, 50¢ VHS movies, books, boys' toys, household items, holiday décor & more. HOOPESTON: 609 W. Penn. Fri. & Sat., 8-2. Multi familyfurniture, pictures, shoes, purses, toys, women & Jr. brand name clothing, glassware, misc. VEHICLES FOR SALE

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Labor Day weekend. Vendors are needed. Booth rental is \$22 for all three days. For information, call Dick Queen, (217) 748-4344.

### **Fire Calls**

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 2:09 p.m. Tuesday to the 500 block of North Eighth Avenue for a report of a house on fire. Investigation showed something was burning on the stove. No injuries were reported.

### Weather

Chance of storms today, tonight. High 92, low 67. To-

morrow, sunny. High 88, low 64.

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