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**Tuesday, September 23, 2014**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication  
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## Alliance tells residents about development, volunteering

More than 40 people turned out last week to learn more about a newly-formed group hoping to improve Hoopeston.

Hoopeston Community Alliance held a dinner meeting Wednesday at Hoopeston American Legion to entice citizens to come learn more about the group, and hopefully volunteer in the organization's endeavors.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry gave a brief history leading to HCA's formation, starting with the economic development group. "Every Tuesday, you can find a handful, or maybe a double handful" of ED members at the meeting, Crusinberry said, adding the group has met for more than a decade.

That group approached the city about the need for some direction, leading the city to hire Champaign County Regional Planning Commission's Susan Chavarria to help develop an economic development strategy.

A core group of civic leaders—representing city government, business and education—met with Chavarria to develop a list of target areas for improvement. In April, residents were invited to a strategy session to review the master list and prioritize goals under subheadings of such areas as infrastructure, housing, education and community image.

From there, the core group met several times and, in the process, HCA was formed to both help Hoopeston and drum up interest in volunteerism for the alliance.

"I'm so excited to see all of you here on a Wednesday night," said Karla Coon, a driving force behind the economic development strategy process, told attendees.

Calling the process a way to "rebuild our community," Coon talked about a Facebook post she started on "You might be from Hoopeston." Her initial post received about 55 comments from people remembering their



**Dr. Alice Jacobs, president of Danville Area Community College, addresses the crowd at last week's Hoopeston Community Alliance meeting.**

childhoods, referring to Hoopeston as a good place from which to be, a good place to raise children."

While some might want to recreate Hoopeston's glory days, "what's gone is gone, and they're good memories," she said.

Hitting on what Hoopeston has lost over the years,  
**See ALLIANCE on other side**

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# Cornjerkers snap losing streak in win over Traders Point Academy

The Cornjerker Football team Friday night traveled to Zionsville, Ind., to play Traders Point Academy and came home 34-6 winners.

The defense got things going by tackling their opponents in the end zone for a safety. The offense came right back and scored on a touchdown run by Coty Coon to make the game 8-0.

The Golden Eagles didn't back down as they took the kick off back for a touchdown to make the score 8-6 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the offense kicked it back in gear as quarterback Gavin Gard followed his fullback, Brock Watson, right over Kade Ramos to score to make the game 14-6. Right before half, the defense held strong and put the ball back in the offense's hands with 6 seconds left. Gavin Gard hooked up with Gavin Stines as the horn sounded on a 45-yard touchdown pass to take a 21-6 lead at half.

The Cornjerkers came out in the second half feeling good about themselves and didn't stop as they racked up

206 yards on the ground and another 98 yards in the air thanks to the great line play from Geno Wagoner, Trenton Lanter, Kade Ramos, Nate Bushong, Jacob Varns and rest of the line.

Coty Coon had 80 yards on the ground with two touchdowns, Brock Watson was able to find the end-zone for his first career touchdown by rushing for 51 yards. Gavin Gard carried the ball six times for 30 yards, Eliseo Zamora five carries for 23 yards, Kevin Lane, who was nursing a sore ankle, rushed for 22 yards and freshman Christian Chandler had one carry for five yards.

Gavin Gard completed five of his seven passes for 93 yards, one interception and one touchdown. G a v i n Stines led the team in receiving with four catches for 88m yards.

Defensively, the Cornjerkers created two turnovers on the night, which helped the offense tremendously. Geno Wagoner led the team with eight tackles; Jacob Varns seven; Coty Coon five; Dylan Bays six; and one fumble recovery; Trenton Lanter four; Jacob Nolan two; Eliseo

Zamora three; Pedro Linares one and a fumble recovery; Harrington Matherne two; Chis Webb one; Christian Chandler four; Kade Ramos one; Gerd Herron one; and Brock Watson one.

The win brings the team's record to 1-3.

The Cornjerkers will be in action next week, traveling to play the Salt Fork Storm. Game time is 7 p.m.

HA will return home October 3 for the team's Homecoming contest against Bismarck-Henning.

## HAHS to have info night

Hoopeston Area High School will have an evening filled with information for students and parents on Wednesday. The schedule is:

College Information Night at 6 p.m. in the auditorium, for juniors and seniors, and their parents..

Dual Credit Information Night, 6:45 p.m., in the auditorium, for all students and parents.

Advanced Placement Information Night, 7 p.m., to explain the curriculum and answer questions. AP teachers will be on hand.

## Alliance continued from other side

Coon shared her own story of loss, when FMC closed. "I worked there until the last day," she said. Then, about a year and a half ago, a tire fire destroyed the former FMC building where so many Hoopeston people had worked over the years. "That was the end of an era for me," she said. "It was a purging."

The fire also made Coon realize that Hoopeston "still have a lot that we can build on...to truly create a bright future for our community."

Coon told the crowd that the core group working on the strategy is "a good mix" of younger people, experience people and older people, saying "it's good that we're creating our succession plan."

Addressing the part of the program seeking to get volunteers, Coon asked attendees to fill out volunteer forms. "If you want to participate for a month, let us know," she said. "If you want to participate for the rest of your life, that's ok, too."

Dr. Alice Jacobs, president of Danville Area Com-

munity College, talked about how generous Hoopeston has been in creating and supporting DACC's Higher Learning Center in the city.

Before breaking into groups of the seven major categories of the strategy plan, Crusinberry returned to the microphone to comment on the "aggressive" housing and infrastructure plans in Hoopeston and to talk up his plan to increase the sales tax.

"Right now, Vermilion County people have been hit pretty hard" on property taxes, he said. To get more to share in increasing income to the city, Crusinberry has suggested a one-cent increase to the sales tax, which residents will vote on in November.

Money raised "is not going to be squandered," he said. "It's going to be for Hoopeston."

## Weather



Sunny today. High 71. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 49. Tomorrow, sunny. High 75, low 52.

## Police News



Shenoa Webb, 23, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 4:58 p.m. Sunday to the 800 block of East Seminary. She was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 56-year-old Hoopeston man.

Webb was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

## Fire Calls



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 11:20 a.m. Sunday to the 800 block of North Third St., for a report of a fire in a wall. No injuries or damage was reported.

## Court Dispositions



### August 7

**Lucas Neal**, Hoopeston, failed to appear for assault, found guilty by default; sentencing September 4.

**Jonathan Martin**, Hoopeston, failed to appear for unlawful assembly, found guilty by default; sentencing September 4.

## Classifieds

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### HELP WANTED

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Seasonal driver needed. CDL required and must pass drug screen. For information call 217-375-4275 or visit Crop Production Services 289N 1700 East Rd Cissna Park, IL 60924

Dietary/kitchen help needed. Current Illinois State Food Sanitation License required. Must apply in person at Autumn Fields.

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Hoopeston - Duplex for sale. 2 bedroom units, many updates. \$9900/year gross rents, tenants pay all utilities. Owner may finance with approved credit and 10% down. \$65,000. For more information, call 217-304-6547.

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