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Hoopeston to lose Cell One office following AT&T merger

Hoopeston is among communities that will lose Cell One office - and the jobs that go with it - following a merger with AT&T.

At Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Mayor Bill Crusinberry read a letter from Cell One of Central Illinois representatives stating that the business will close September 30.

Hoopeston is one of several communities losing Cell One stores, including Danville, Casey, Paris and Charleston.

In other business, the council heard from Ald. Alex Houmes that the city's new web page, at www.cityofhoopeston.com, is up and running.

An updated website was a top priority according to surveys done as part of a Hoopeston mapping program in 2014. Officials budgeted \$5,000 this year for the upgrade.

Houmes, who headed a committee for the upgrade, said the city opted to keep its current web address - rather than switching to a .gov or .org extension or even a completely new address - because people are familiar with it.

Premier Network Solutions of Danville was selected from among bidders for the project, which became stalled when legal suits and countersuits were filed by company officials and a former employee. That employee had taken ownership of the city's web address, resulting in PNS having to wrest it back.

To make up for the delay caused by court action, PNS is giving Hoopeston a \$250 credit, Houmes said.

As legal issues continue, PNS subcontracted the city's webpage to BEAMSCO (Business Ecommerce and Marketing Service Company), also of Danville, which will also host the website, instead of Premier.

BEAMSCO had also bid on designing the city's web page but had been rejected by the committee.

Christina Hardwick of BEAMSCO designed the page and will teach Hoopeston employees to update it, Houmes said.

Hardwick is the former Christina Milburn of Hoopeston.

In unrelated discussion:

- Houmes said no bids were received in the parks department search for a used truck.
- Ald. Bill Goodwine said a public hearing on the city appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:45 p.m. July 19, prior to the regular council meeting.
- Learned no decision has been made about the cancelled fireworks display.
- Heard a presentation from Erika Samet, currently attending Concordia University of Wisconsin, about a community wellness project she is working on as part of her master's degree. The project centers on safe bicycle routes which would allow youngsters to bike to schools, the library and McFerren Park.

From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:30 a.m. Sunday in the northside alley of the 300 block of East Main. Police said Jacob Kruse, of Hoopeston, in a 2014 Ford, struck a No Parking in Alley sign.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 9:07 p.m. Tuesday at Hoopeston IGA, 1020 W. Chestnut. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 2012 Dodge Ram owned by Matthew Terrell of Hoopeston.

Ambrosio Ybarra, 19, of Rossville, was arrested after police received a tip that he was walking in the 500 block of North Market. Wanted on Vermilion and Champaign county warrants for failure to appear, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

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DACC board approves Dr. Stephen Nacco as new president

DANVILLE—Danville Area Community College Board of Trustees have approved Dr. Stephen Nacco as the institutions' new president.

He replaces Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs, who is retiring after 17 years at DACC.

Since 2010, Nacco has served as vice president of administrative services and executive assistant to the president at Union County College in Cranford, N.J. He

oversees continuing education, the Industry-Business Institute, the Center for Economic & Workforce Development, marketing and communications, grants, and events management. He also continues to provide guidance to the Union County College Foundation, which he supervised for more than a year.

He was previously executive director of college relations at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, N.J., and senior director of customer relations for MTA New York City Transit.

He will begin at DACC in mid-August.

Obituaries

STAFFORD - Virginia May "Virge" (Howard) Stafford, 75, of Hoopeston died Sunday, June 19, 2016 at home. A celebration of her life and memorial service will be at 11 a.m. July 9 at Hoopeston Community Church of the Nazarene.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today. High 89. Tonight, storms likely. Low 73. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 88, low 65.



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