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Tuesday, October 16, 2018

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P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

City finance committee learns of progress in development

Hoopeston City Council's finance committee met October 8 with Vickie Haugen and Logan Cronk of Vermilion Advantage to get updated information on planned economic development for the city.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry related some of the history of the planned projects, including a truck stop on the former Dick Jones property at Rtes. 1 and 9, a motel/restaurant on land between Hoopeston Chrysler and Hoopeston Marathon; and a new First Farmers Bank and Trust facility currently under construction on Rt. 1, south of FFBT's existing building.

Crusinberry related when aldermen heard a proposal from Harry Brockus, requesting \$3 million from the

city for the development projects. "A lot of the council was put off by that," he said.

Much of the \$3 million requested was for Heritage Park, site of the planned hotel and restaurant. Since then, Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation has stepped forward and are ready to assume some of the risk, Crusinberry said.

Negotiations are ongoing for the truck stop project, Haugen said. One problem has been an issue of relocating an existing business on property earmarked for the truck stop, but officials continue to work on a solution, she said.

Using estimates from similar construction in other communities, Crusinberry presented estimates of what property taxes might be with the improvements and how the increase might be split with project developers through Hoopeston's TIF program.

Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman and overseer of the city's tax increment financing program, said planned development will create "some jobs, not a lot of jobs," and that school representatives he's talked to "want jobs. Jobs bring in responsible people."

As the largest taxing body, the city's TIF program affects it more than others, like Grant Township and Vermilion County. "Ask yourself if this is a good expenditure from the school's standpoint, from the county's," he said.

Haugen said the perception that there are no jobs in Vermilion County is a myth. "A lot of jobs are going unfilled month after month," she said.

Crusinberry also said the city needs to pass a motel tax, which will increase revenue to the city but will not place an additional burden on taxpayers.

Currently, Vermilion County has a motel tax. If the city failed to enact one, the county would be able to collect the tax from Hoopeston's planned hotel. By passing a motel tax, Hoopeston will be able to keep those dollars, Crusinberry said.

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Soccer
Cornjerkers win VVC title, drop to Unity

A 4-1 loss to Bismarck-Henning/Rossville Alvin on October 4 was not enough to keep the Cornjerkers from putting up another VVC banner. Ending the regular season at 14-4-1, top-seeded Hoopeston Area faced BH/RA for the second time in less than a week Wednesday in the Oakwood Region-

al. It was the third time the teams faced each other this year, each winning one. The Cornjerkers jumped to a 2-0 lead at half but the Blue Devils responded by tying the score in the second half. Rhys Root scored on a penalty kick to take a one-goal lead but the BH/RA fought back and scored, sending the game into overtime.

During the first 10 minutes, the Blue Devils took a 1-0 lead on a goal by Elijah Tidwell. In the second 10 minutes of OT, Cameron Flint found the back of the net from just outside the 18 foot box. The game ended in a 4-4 tie. In the penalty portion of the game to find a winner, Hoopeston Area was able to defeat the Blue Devils, 3-2, making the final score 5-4 in favor of the Cornjerkers. Hoopeston Area faced second-seed Urbana University in the championship game Saturday. Sixty-three minutes of the game went by until Aiden Garrett scored, giving Uni the lead. The Cornjerkers had chances to tie but just missed wide or Uni was able to make the save. Uni's Albert Lee put the final points on the board, as he was able to score a penalty kick after HA was called for a handball with 6:21 left. Bradlee Herman was 17 of 19 for saves. The coaching staff would like to thank the senior parents for their support the past four years and allowing HA the opportunity to share some great moments and time with their kids. The Cornjerker Soccer program will miss this year's seniors and want them to know that their hard work and dedication was appre-

ciated. We wish the seniors the best of luck as they start their next chapter of their life. Seniors are Carson Alwardt, Jose Diaz, Reece Williams, Ethan Smith, Payton Fredrick and Brennen Granados.



Photo by Cathy Jennings

And the final winner is... A cornucopia of cotton candy colors describes this picture, taken by Cathy Jennings of southern Illinois, the grand prize winner in the 2018 Summer Snaps Photo Contest, sponsored by Just the Facts. Jennings will receive \$25 as a monthly winner and \$100 as the grand prize winner. Other monthly winners in this year's contest were Ben Mitkus and Elizabeth Coon.

Court Dispositions

September 6

- Constance Wisdom, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to cruelty to animals, fined \$200; status check October 4.
- Jesus Morales, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, fined \$180, paid in full.
- David Watson, Arizona, new initial appearance October 4.
- Nathaniel Sims, Hoopeston, failed to appear for possession of cannabis, found guilty by default, fined \$200; status check October 4.
- Linda Yanders, Hoopeston, case dismissed.
- Francisco Arce, Hoopeston, case sent to Illinois comptroller for further enforcement.
- Sandra Woods, status check October 4.
- Skylar Pickett, Potomac, status check November 1.
- Mona Perez, Hoopeston, status check October 4.

Weather

Freeze watch until 8 a.m. today. Sunny, high 54. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 37. Tomorrow, sunny. High 50, low 33.

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