

Smoked BBQ
Rossville Family Restaurant
 715 S. Chicago
Lunch & Dinner
Saturday, Dec. 7th & Sunday, Dec. 8th
Pulled Pork Butt, Pork Ribs & Beef Brisket

Bill & Susan McGee
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MCP Shop Hop
 Friday, December 6 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Saturday, December 7 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
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 Sheila's Sunny Bloomers
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 Custom Creations
 Charley Grace Boutique
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 The Blossom Basket
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 for the Holidays!!*

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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner
Friday, December 6, 2019
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Hoopeston approves increase in levy to fund police pensions

Hoopeston City Council voted 6-0 to approve an \$837,385 levy at its meeting Tuesday.

The levy is up from the previous \$783,385 levy only because the city needs to make up a shortfall in police pension contributions.

Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said the \$2.5 million deficit is based on an Illinois Department of Insurance formula that uses presuppositions such as 80 percent of officers will be married, officers will be three years older than their spouses, and money accrued will earn 8.5 percent interest.

In Hoopeston's case, one retired officer's spouse is 14

years younger, meaning that person will collect pension benefits far longer. "That hurt us quite a bit," Goodwine said. Also, Hoopeston's rate on accrued funds is less than the suggested amount.

To cover the money needed for future pension obligations, officials unanimously approved raising the police pension levy from \$296,000 to \$350,000.

Aldermen Carl Ankenbrand and Chad Yaden were absent, as was Mayor Bill Crusinberry.

In addition, the pension contribution from the General Revenue line item was increased by \$35,000 to \$75,000.

See PENSIONS on other side

'Christmas in the Village' starts Rossville holiday season

Rossville will show its Christmas spirit beginning this weekend, thanks to Rossville Community Organization.

Christmas in the Village will be held from December 6-8. Events include:

Friday: a bake sale at Bank of Rossville, 111 N. Chicago. Baked goods will be available beginning at 9 a.m.

Saturday: A craft show will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the fire station, 617 N. Chicago

The annual Lighted Christmas Parade will begin at 6 p.m.

A Winter Carnival will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the grade school.

The light display in Christman Park begins for the season. The park will be lit up each night from Saturday through December 31.

Sunday: The Christmas House Walk will be held from 2-5 p.m., with seven locations to visit.

Cost is \$10 per person. Tickets may be purchased at Rossville Village Office or the first house visited that day. Signs will be posted or the addressees will be listed on Rossville Community Organization Facebook page.

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Here's what's showing this weekend at the
LITTLE LORRAINE
SPIDER-MAN
Far From Home
7 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 3 p.m. Sun.
 Pizza & a Picture \$10/person Fri. only
 \$5/adults, children \$2 214 E. Main, Hoopeston

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5th Annual Christmas Walk
 hosted by Treasured Roots
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 in Hoopeston
Saturday, December 7th 3-7 p.m.
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Grant Township Food Cupboard
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Magical Express was wonderful

I wanted to take a moment to share publicly about something wonderful which took place in Hoopeston last Saturday night. Of course, I am talking about the Magical Express, sponsored by the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce.

The Magical Express has been going on for several years now, but this was my first opportunity to attend. Family members came from out-of-town and they, as

Briefly

Blue Christmas service

Hoopeston United Methodist Church will hold a Blue Christmas service at 4 p.m. Sunday at the church, 403 E. Main. The service is to remember loved ones who have died and to acknowledge the pain and sadness that can come from events that enter our lives uninvited and unwanted. It is a good time to invite others who may find such a service a blessing in their lives.

Christmas concert

Old Paths Quartet will be featured at a free Christmas concert at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at East Lynn Community Fellowship, 1428 Main St. Everyone is welcome.

Pensions continued from other side

The increases are expected to catch the fund up over 20 years, Goodwine said.

At a public hearing prior to the council meeting, resident Don Jackson asked whether any money from the \$9 dispatch fee goes to pensions.

Goodwine said none does and that the fee does not cover the entire cost of police dispatching. The fee generates about \$238,000 per year, based on 2,200 water customers, while actual dispatch costs are about \$400,000.

Resident Stan Steiner then asked if the employee portion of pension costs goes up.

Goodwine responded that those increases are pegged to inflation and mandated by statute.

Illinois recently merged more than 600 downstate police and fire pensions into two accounts. “Now that the state has taken over deposits, I’m sure it’ll grow rapidly,” Goodwine said, tongue-in-cheek.

“It might if they don’t steal the money from us like they do every other fund,” Steiner responded.

In other discussion, Ald. Jeff Wise said leaf cleanup will continue for another week or two. Residents are asked to place leaves by the curb but not in the street.

Letters to the Editor

well as I, were very impressed. We began at the Multi Agency, where we were greeted by an assortment of elves and waited briefly before catching our "train" (school bus) to the McFerren Park Civic Center. The ride was great fun as more elves entertained us with Christmas carols.

When we arrived at the Civic Center, activities were in progress all around the beautifully decorated building. Children could visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus,

Sensory Santa Saturday

Sensory Santa, for children with special needs, will be in Hoopeston Saturday. A professional photographer will capture the special moments. Each session lasts about 15 minutes, followed by a snack and craft. Families will receive a link to download their child’s session for free.

All sessions are free but by appointment only. For an appointment, call (217) 918-2106 or email amcmilanphotography@gmail.com.

Sensory Santa is sponsored by Sew Shoot Me, Hoopeston First Church of God and First Presbyterian church of Hoopeston.

Card shower

Former Hoopeston resident Terry Meador is very ill and friends are holding a cheer or Christmas card shower for them. Cards may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Meador, P.O. Box 182, Collison IL 61831. Prayers would also be appreciated.

Weather

Decreasing clouds today. High 39. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 24. Tomorrow, sunny. High 42, low 33. Sunday, cloudy, chance of rain late. High 49, low 44.

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enjoy cookie decorating, cocoa, Christmas trees, snowmen, more elves, and lots of free crafts and ornament decorating.

There were a number of local vendors offering all sorts of fun gift ideas, from handmade jewelry, crochet, candy and nuts, candles, holiday décor, and much, much more. (Our little 18-month got tired before we saw everything!) When you add in the wonderful light display outside in the park, it was truly a very nice evening for all!

Thank you so much to everyone who had a part in making the Magical Express so professional and such a success! Activities like this make me very proud to call Hoopeston my hometown!

JoAnn Charbonneau
 Hoopeston

Classifieds

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