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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner
Monday, June 29, 2020
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Mayor Bill Crusinberry, right, reads from a statement at a public hearing Friday concerning a Restore Illinois grant Hoopeston is applying for to install infrastructure at the site of a planned motel. Also pictured are Tim Cowan, engineer with Donahue and Associates.

Public hearing has no surprises, hotel project moves forward

Hoopeston officials received no public feedback on a plan to apply for a \$1.09 million Rebuild Illinois grant, money from which would be used to provide infrastructure for a planned hotel.

A public hearing on the grant application, held Friday afternoon, was attended by those involved in the process, including Mayor Bill Crusinberry, aldermen Bill Goodwine and Lourdine Florek, engineer Tim Cowan of Donahue and Associates, and Russ Leigh, who is driving the project and who has gathered in-

vestors for it. Representatives from Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) participated digitally from their office.

Hoopeston hired CCRPC to write the grant application.

Crusinberry began the hearing by outlining ongoing development in Hoopeston, including the addition of Prairie Meadows I and II, the new First Farmers Bank, a planned Subway move and a new Casey's

See HOTEL on other side

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COVID-19 cases climb to 54 last week, deaths hold at two

Editor's note: In reporting cases of COVID-19, Just the Facts is using the generic "him," or "his" rather than "he or she" or the plural "their." The person's gender was not released by the Vermilion County Health Department.

Vermilion County saw an increase of eight new confirmed cases of COVID-19 last week, said Public Health Administrator Doug Toole.

Early last week, two 80-year-old people tested positive, as well as a 50-year-old. None appeared to be living in long-term care facilities, he said.

The 50th confirmed case was a resident in his 20s, reported Thursday.

Four positive cases were reported Friday, including a married couple in their 60s, a person in his 50s and another in his 30s.

Of the 54 positive cases, four small groups (four cases, three cases, two cases and two cases) are connected by family, one small group (two cases) is connected by housing, and one small group (five cases) is connected by workplace.

As of Friday, there were 11 active cases, with one person hospitalized and 10 on home confinement. Two patients died of COVID-related causes.

A total of 5,406 (5,352 negative and 54 positive) people have been tested for the coronavirus.

Obituaries

COPHER - Ed Copher, 74, of Milford, died Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation was 1 p.m. until the 2 p.m. funeral Friday at Milford Christian Church. Burial was in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland, with graveside rites by Watseka American Legion and Iroquois County VFW posts. Memorials are suggested to Milford Christian Church or International Disaster Emergency Services, (IDES), P.O.

Hotel continued from other side

truck stop on Rt. 1.

Seguing into the hotel project, he said the land where the it is planned to be built, 725 W. Elm, is approximately 5.5 acres bounded by Hoopeston Marathon and the former Chrysler dealership and from Rt. 9 to West Elm. Heritage Park, as it was named, currently generates \$1,057 in annual property taxes, but Crusinberry estimated property n a hotel would up that to the \$40,000 range. Additionally, there would be sales taxes generated and the city could impose a hotel tax, as well.

Hoopeston has set aside \$150,000 to be used for the majority of engineering services for contract development, bidding assistance and construction-related services of installing water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines and a retention area on the property.

Infrastructure-related costs has been estimated at \$1.24 million, with an additional \$5 million plus in construction and other costs that will be paid by private investors.

When fully developed, the site is expected to include a new street - Heritage Way - as well as an area for a restaurant and a second area for other development.

The Competitive Public Infrastructure Grant compo-

Box 379, Noblesville, IN 46061-0379. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

JOHNSON - Beverly Jean "Jeanie" Johnson, 62, of Milford, died Thursday, June 25, 2020, at home. She will be cremated. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, is handing arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

ment of Rebuild Illinois is designed to provide a total of \$25 million to improve public infrastructure, as part of Gov. JB Pritzker's five-year economic plan.

Grants will be awarded on a point system. Hoopeston currently sits at about 80 points, Cowan said, which puts the city in a good position for a grant award. "When this came about, this was a project that came to my mind," he said. "Assuming the funds are there, I see no reason why they wouldn't fund it."

Grant applications are due June 30. Grant awards are expected to be announced August 30. If Hoopeston is successful, bids will be sought, with an opening date of August 18. Bids would then be awarded on August 23, with construction to start November 8. Final completion is targeted for November 1, 2021.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight. High 92, low 71. Tomorrow, storms likely. High 87, low 70.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

From the Blotter

Dannielle V. Hutton, 53, and Kayla R. Waddell, 25, both of Hoopeston, as dog owner and dog caretaker, were cited for restraint of dogs by owner at noon Thursday after a dog was running loose in the 600 block of West Elm.

Both are set to appear in Hoopeston City Court. **Two Milford people** were arrested after a traffic stop at 7:03 p.m. Thursday at South First Ave. and West Maple.

Frank Spina, 67, was charged with possession of methamphetamines and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

His wife, Antonietta Spina, 51, was charged with illegal transportation of alcohol and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

Keaton Longest, 23, of Milford, was arrested after police were called at 10:56 p.m. Thursday for a report of a fight at The Pump, 1023 W. Main. Officers advised Longest to leave, but he returned after police left.

Police returned and charged him with trespassing. He was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:30 p.m. Friday in the 500 block of West Elm. Police said Laura A. Aguirre, 38, of Hoopeston, in a 2005 Chevrolet Trail Blazer, and Phoebe N. Langellier-Robb, 22, also of Hoopeston, in a 2015 Chevrolet sedan, were involved.

Police said Aguirre was at fault for improper backing.

Classifieds

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