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# Just the Facts

**Thursday, March 4, 2021**

*Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!*

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348  
Lourdine Florek, Owner

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## With more questions than answers, council declines to approve resolution without information

Hoopeston officials are no closer to approving a cooperation agreement between the city and Vermilion Housing Authority (VHA) than they were in November.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry raised the issue for discussion at Tuesday evening's council meeting, saying the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is pushing for action on a resolution affirming a previous cooperation agreement that reads like it was written in the 1950s.

A new resolution is required because when the former Vermilion County Housing Authority (VCHA) board resigned in 2018, property and documents went to VHA, a new entity combining VCHA and Danville Housing Authority.

The most recent VHA resolution includes wording about funding for 112 new units for low-income housing but Crusinberry has previously stated he believes that language was in a document that predated Parkview Court, built in 1951.

Ald. Bill Goodwine had several questions about the agreement. "I'm not a big fan of HUD and more subsidized housing," he said. The document has no expiration date and nothing to prohibit construction of more low-income housing. Hoopeston's population has decreased and there are already many empty houses in the city.

Also, he said, no property taxes are paid on government-owned low-income housing, but the city must provide its

services, including police protection, water/sewer service and streets.

VHA has submitted a request to tear down the existing Parkview Court and replace it with town homes and duplexes. Goodwine wondered what would happen to current residents while the project was underway.

Crusinberry answered that when a Rossville housing project was updated, two tenants were moved while those units were improved. Residents were shuffled around from there until the project was done. "I'm sure they have a plan," he said. "I don't think they're going to put people out on the street."

A proposed resolution drafted by city attorney Dave Wesner would affirm the concept but contains a clause stating, "the re-execution of the Cooperation Agreement is not intended to allow or provide for the building and maintenance of any additional low-rent housing projects." However, Goodwine said that resolution is to affirm the original agreement, which allows for new construction.

Ald. Jeff Wise agreed. "I feel if we're signing off on this, we're signing off on 112 units," he said. "We've got so many 'I don't knows' in here."

"It's pretty wide open," Goodwine agreed.

Ald. Carl Ankenbrand wondered if new construction would have to get council approval, but Goodwine, who called the original document "kind of a convoluted agreement," said it "goes on and on about we have to cooperate, but nowhere does it say we have to approve it."

Ald. Lourdine Florek suggested officials need to consider how much low-income housing Hoopeston needs. She said 2019 data showed 22.1 percent of Hoopeston residents live below the poverty line. The state average is 11.5 percent, and neighboring communities have lower rates, as well, with Watseka at 14.2, Gibson City at 16.4, and Paxton at 11.3. Also, preliminary estimates of Hoopeston's population from the 2020 census puts the number of residents at around 4,830, which will increase the percent of those living under the poverty level.

"When I first came here, (the city council) got rid of

trailer parks because they were unsightly and didn't attract people who kept up their property, who weren't good citizens," she said. "At what point do we say 'that's enough,' or is there a point when we do say, 'ok, that's enough. We need to think about that.'"

Wise asked if the council will have any say in Parkview Court plans and commented on the per-unit cost of the \$10 million estimated project cost, with \$6.6 million estimated for construction. Crusinberry cited prevailing wage and other factors.

He will also try to find answers to aldermen's questions about the agreement.

In other business:

See COUNCIL on other side

## WHY RE-ELECT MAYOR BILL CRUSINBERRY?

- ★ He works with existing & new businesses
- ★ He continues work on improving Hoopeston's aging infrastructure
- ★ He brought new development to town
- ★ Improvements have increased our tax base for Schools, City, Township, Library, & more
- ★ He works with Central Illinois Land Bank to clean up blighted properties

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**Saturday, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>**  
*Pulled Pork Butt, Pork Ribs & Beef Brisket*



Council continued from other side

●Crusinberry announced sealed bids for perpetual care are being accepted until 9 a.m. Friday, March 26. Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. on that day. Specs, available at city hall, call for live plants this year. “The perpetual care fund does not maintain itself,” he said. This will save the city some money.”

●He added there is still time to submit a sealed bid on an Exmark mower used by the cemetery department. Specs are available at city hall or on the city’s web-site, [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com). Minimum bid is \$1,500, due by 9 a.m. March 12. Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. that day.

●Crusinberry explained why he has not assigned the newest aldermen to committees, saying with the election so close, he did not want to put Steve Eyrich and Joe Garrett as committee chairmen when that might change after the election. “That’s why I let it ride,” he said. “We’ll see how the election works out, not only for me but for the council seats, then we’ll figure out what committees everybody’s going to be on.”

●Aldermen approved, 7-0, a 2019-20 Motor Fuel Tax maintenance expense statement. Ald. Bill McElhaney was absent.

●Ald. Robin Lawson announced Hoopeston Fire Depart-

ment’s annual Hospitality Day will be held 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the fire station.

●She also asked about new basketball goals to be installed at McFerren Park. Crusinberry said the goals are in storage and that he needed to talk to David Silver, who agreed to install them. Chuckling occurred and someone said “Brian Silver is sitting in the back right now.”

Nonplussed, Crusinberry related the information. “We’ll get on that,” Silver said.

Silgan Containers is also a partner in the project, paying more than half the cost of the goals.

From the Blotter

Jacky A. Coffey, 46, of Fithian, was arrested after police were called at 3:20 p.m. Tuesday of an unauthorized person in an apartment at Parkview Court. One male showed he had permission to be there to get his belongings. However, police said, Coffey was on the property after being barred in 2019.

He was charged with criminal trespass to state supported property and released on recognizance bond with an appearance scheduled in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

Obituaries

**CANNON**– Rocky Jay Cannon, 70, of Rossville, died at 7:34 a.m. Monday, March 1, 2021, at home. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Potomac Cemetery with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion Post #384. Memorials are suggested to American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield VA 22116-7023. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.anderson-funeral-home.com](http://www.anderson-funeral-home.com).

**KAAG** - Brownie Kaag, 94, of Fitchburg, Wis., formerly of Hoopeston, died at 11:35 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021 at Agrace Hospice, Fitchburg. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home.

Weather

Sunny today. High 48. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 26. Tomorrow, sunny. High 46, low 26.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](http://justthefacts.net/weather/).

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom first floor apartment, washer & dryer hook up, fresh paint, garbage paid, \$500 month 217-495-2274

HELP WANTED

United Prairie-Hoopeston has opening this Spring for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd Hoopeston. For more information please call 217/888-0164 or Manager Jordan Reese 217/918-2876.

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is looking to hire 2-3 part time assistant teachers. Requirements include: 18 or older, high school diploma or GED, college credits are preferred but not mandatory for the right candidate, willing to undergo a background check and fingerprinting, flexible and able to work as early as 6:30 a.m. and as late as 5:30 p.m., and have reliable transportation. Please email Nicole Gregory at [mustardseed.christiandaycare@gmail.com](mailto:mustardseed.christiandaycare@gmail.com) for application information.

Fast Lanes is looking for experienced kitchen help. Time is from 4-usually about 9. If interested and willing to learn our system please contact Doug or Rachel at 283-6505.

Wagner's, LLC, Milford, is hiring production workers, forklift drivers. Apply at 2812 E. 1100 N Rd., or call (815)-889-4101.

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Interested candidates can apply online at [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11205/0](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11205/0)

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time, with a full benefit package, and part-time positions. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shifts available. Choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle - work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> shift.

We offer a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn extra cash during school hours, with an. 8 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fit the needs of your family.

Please apply on-line at [www.full-fill.com](http://www.full-fill.com) go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

Driver w/CDL needed. Home every night. Trips within 100 miles of Hoopeston. (217) 304-1943.

Autumn Fields of Hoopeston is looking for CNAs part time hours, every other weekend and shared holidays. Please call Autumn Fields @ 217-283-2222

KSi in Cissna Park is seeking a qualified Controls Technician for project site startups and in-field customer training for controls systems. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication, electrical, technical, and troubleshooting skills. An understanding of PLCs and HMI applications is preferred.

Travel is required. Apply online at [www.ksiedge.com](http://www.ksiedge.com) or send resume to [hr@ksiedge.com](mailto:hr@ksiedge.com).

Dogtown Heating, Air, & Plumbing is in search of an experienced HVAC technician to help serve our customers in the area. Pay based on experience. Health insurance, Life insurance, and 2 weeks paid vacation. We have a family atmosphere that serves our customers with honesty and integrity. Email [brad.dogtown@gmail.com](mailto:brad.dogtown@gmail.com)

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking full time and seasonal help. Requirements include at least a Class B CDL and ability to pass a drug test. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

Teasdale Latin Foods has immediate openings on 2nd shift in both Distribution and Manufacturing. Pay to be determined based on experience level. Stop by the Human Resources office at 215 W. Washington Street, Hoopeston, for more detail. Please no phone calls.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Rossville: **402 Harison, Reduced,** 3 bdrm, 1 bth, C/A, New hardwd floors, All repl windows, energy effic, Stv & Refrig, washer & dryer hookup 1st floor, full bsmt, 1 car det gar. \$750/ mo plus sec dep. Close to grade school, and day care. No Smoking. 217-304-2247.

HOUSES FOR SALE

1 BR, 1 bath, large garage, new roof. Corner lot. Asking \$35,000 firm. Call (217) 260-6131 for details.

SERVICES WANTED

Part time caregiver for elderly man with early dementia. Send resume to P.O. Box 85, East Lynn IL 60932 or email to [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net).

WANTED

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