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Mayor updates council on property, Dollar General, Casey's

Mayor Bill Crusinberry updated aldermen on several matters during Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

Attending remotely, Crusinberry announced:

- An application has been submitted to the tax trustees to purchase 105 E. Main for \$800. The transaction should be finalized in 60 days.

The purchase price is small compared to what officials have already spent on the property, which was purchased by William Thomas in 2017 at a tax trustee sale. He planned to open an electronics store at the location.

In October, the roof on the building collapsed and the city waived bids and approved a proposal to demolish it

See COUNCIL on other side



Artful
 Area artists converged at 112 Wine and Coffee Shoppe Saturday to display their wares during the first Drink It In Art Show. The show featured various types of art, from fantasy creations to photographs, to hand-painted note cards. Pictured are, clockwise from left, Jasmine Davis, Amber Richardson, Jennifer Richardson, Richardson's granddaughter, Audrey, and Rick Decorie. Other artists featured included Beth Walder, William Ludington, Jayde Craighead, Beverly Gibbs and Jill Burkowski.

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for \$12,450. A garage remains in the rear of the property. Officials had planned to work out an agreement to collect demolition costs. Those costs go unpaid, as do property taxes on the site.

- That he put Dollar General’s engineers in contact with adjacent land owners, which led to agreements being reached for Dollar General to connect to the city sanitary sewer two blocks south of the new store, at no cost to the city.
- He spoke with a representative of Casey’s General Store recently, who said the company hopes to resume work on its new store soon.
- Silver Bros. withdrew its bid to clean up debris of the collapsed Suite property on Market. The bid

was based on specifications supplied by the city, which came from an asbestos inspector, Crusinberry said. However, when David Silver applied for an Illinois EPA permit, the inspector’s report was rejected and a decision made that all debris had to be treated as contaminated, the mayor said.

Based on the EPA’s ruling, Silver Bros. submitted a new bid for a price not to exceed \$50,000. The original bid was for \$13,890.

In other business, Ald. Jeff Wise announced tree work has begun, with 18 trees taken down in the week before Tuesday’s meeting. A tree service is doing the cutting, which will last two to three more weeks, Wise said. Street and Alley workers are cleaning up debris after trees are felled. No stump grinding will be done now.

With tree cutting at the forefront, other chores will be delayed or canceled, including fall alley cleanup. “I know a lot of people won’t be very happy about it,” Wise said.

Wise also said that general maintenance work under the Motor Fuel Tax program will likely have to be pushed back to later this fall. Concrete work associated with the project may not be done until next spring.

Ferrell proposes abandoned property registry

Ald. Kellie Ferrell, Civic Committee chairman, is proposing that vacant properties in Hoopeston be placed on a registry at their owners’ expense.

At Tuesday’s Hoopeston City Council meeting, Ferrell presented a proposed vacant buildings ordinance for council consideration. Vacant buildings are defined as those that meet one or more criteria, including being: unoccupied and unsecured; unoccupied and secured by other than normal means; unoccupied and an unsafe building, as determined by the enforcement officer; unoccupied and an enforcement officer has issued an order to correct code violations; occupied but does not possess a properly registered, operating business or non-profit with a valid certificate of occupancy, as required within the fire limits; or is illegally occupied.

Under the proposed ordinance, owners of such buildings have 30 days to register after the building becomes vacant. Owners of residential vacant buildings will be a registration fee of \$100 for a building less than 5,000 sq. ft. or \$500 for large buildings. Fees for non-residential buildings will be \$500 for any building smaller than 5,000 sq. ft., and \$750 for a larger building. Building owners would be required to maintain enough insurance to repair or demolish the building. Owners of buildings that will remain vacant will be assess an annual registration fee of \$500 until the property is demolished or rehabilitated. Owners who fail to pay the registration fee, due January 1 of each year, will be charged a \$100 per month late fee.

The council is expected to vote on the ordinance at its September 21 meeting.

the city’s budget plus a five percent across-the-board contingency.

- Heard from Ald. Stephen Eyrich who said the full time opening at the cemetery has been filled. Justin Rice has been on the job about a week and “is doing a great job,” he said.
- Several committee meetings were called, including:
 - Finance, 3 p.m. Thursday.
 - Parks, 5 p.m. Friday.
 - After the meeting, a Civic meeting was set for 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Weather

Sunny, unseasonably warm today. High 86. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 68. Tomorrow, sunny. High 83, low 67.

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

In other unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Ald. Lourdine Florek that a pump at the water plant broke and will be fixed when parts arrive. Because the plant has to be shut down for the repair, ground storage tanks will be filled to provide water while repairs are made. Water Supt. Steve Baker said the work will be done during the night, when water use is lowest.

- Unanimously approved the appropriations ordinance, which is

From the Blotter

George F. Elpers Jr., 39, of Milford, was arrested by Iroquois County Sheriff’s Police on September 19. Wanted on an Iroquois County warrant for possession of methamphetamine-under five grams, he was taken to the Iroquois County Jail, where he remained in lieu of bond.

An unidentified juvenile was taken to Carle Hoopeston Hospital following a single vehicle accident September 18 on County Road 1130 N., just west of County Road 1900 E in Iroquois County.

Iroquois County Sheriff’s Police reported the juvenile was eastbound. The driver’s vision was obstructed by a contact lens problem and the vehicle failed to negotiate the curve, entering the Jefferson Creek embankment. The vehicle then hit the creek bottom and struck a large concrete block, which caused the vehicle to turn over and land on the other side of the embankment.

Milford Fire/EMS responded to the scene and trans-

ported the youth to the hospital for suspected minor injuries.

The vehicle sustained more than \$1,500 in damage. No tickets were issued.

Charles T. Hurt, 52, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 1:47 a.m. Friday to the 300 block of East Penn for an altercation between Hurt and an unidentified woman.

Arrested on a preliminary charge of domestic battery, Hurt was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Myron D. Wright, 38, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:47 p.m. Friday at East Young and Fifth St.

He was arrested on preliminary charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession with intent to deliver and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Classifieds

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United Prairie-Hoopeston has opening this Fall for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd Hoopeston. For more information call 217/888 -0164.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a seasonal employee for the Parks Department. Applications are available at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St., or online at www.cityofhoopeston.com.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. ****Increased Starting Pay**** We offer great benefits and 11 paid holidays! For more information and to apply, please follow this link: <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11980>

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking a full time applicator. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

Silver Brothers is looking for part-time mixer drivers. Hours will vary. Must have Class B CDL, pass a drug test, be able to climb a ladder, and lift 75 lbs. Pay will be \$20/hour to an experienced driver. Perfect opportunity for a retired person wanting some extra money. Stop by 105 E. Washington, Hoopeston for application.

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