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Friday, July 22, 2022

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Officials debate using IPMC on owner-occupied houses

A lengthy debate about a city-led push to get owners to fix problems with their homes was had at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

In her report, Ald. Kellie Ferrell said Catlin-based home inspector Dave Biggerstaff has been traveling Hoopeston, looking for houses that have issues that need to be addressed, based on the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) approved by the council in 2021.

The IPMC sets standards for all levels of property maintenance, from the largest concerns to small details.

Ferrell said Biggerstaff is currently on a two-week hiatus but would resume shortly. Homes being selected

range from those with major problems to those with smaller, more affordable fixes needed. "That's kind of the point," she said, to take care of problems when they're small and affordable and not wait until they become big and expensive.

For those who receive a notice, the best thing to do is what the letter says: contact Biggerstaff and work with him, Ferrell said, dispelling a rumor that the program is to take property away for owners. "We don't want your house," she said. "We want you to take care of your house."

Understanding that things are tight right now, Ferrell
See **DEBATE** on other side



502 E. Penn
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FOOD ON FRIDAYS

6-9pm

Steak Chops Chicken Salmon & More
Reservations suggested for
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CBUS-150-HEXN - Business Computer Systems; Thurs. 6PM-7:50PM; Web TBA

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ENGL-101-HEXN1 - Rhetoric and Composition I; Wed. 6PM-8:40PM

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SOCY-100-HEXG - Intro to Sociology; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2PM-3:15PM

DACC Higher Learning Center - Hoopeston

847 E Orange St, Hoopeston or call 217-283-4170

MISSING DOG



"Keith"

Last seen Tuesday night in our yard on the south side
of Rt. 9 across from the church. No collar, but is fixed
and microchipped. Weights about 6 lbs.

If seen, please call
Debbie 720-289-2061 or Mike 303-746-3327

Briefly

Hydrant flushing

Hoopeston will begin flushing hydrants this Friday, July 22nd, through-out the community. This will contin-

Debate continued from other side

said the program will move forward. "Enforcement will step on some toes but it's a long time coming and it needs to be done," she said.

Ald. Joe Garrett, who voted to implement the IPMC, said he did so because the council at that time was told it would be used against owners of abandoned, damaged buildings, not owner-occupied homes. "I have several cracks in my stucco," he said "Am I going to get (a notice)? There's no one here who does stucco work. This is not what we passed this for."

Mayor Jeff Wise asked Garrett if he'd seen some of the places that are targeted. "These are places people shouldn't live in," he said.

Garrett replied that it was not the city's place to tell people under what conditions they might live.

Wise said if the problems are not addressed, the city will eventually have to pay to take the buildings down. Also, he said, the city is working to find assis-

ue on Fridays during the summer months as part of an ongoing maintenance program. This is to improve the overall quality of water by cleaning the water mains of rust and corrosion and to ensure that fire hydrants are in

tance for those who are elderly, ill or unemployed.

Garret questioned whether those safety nets should have been in place before residents started receiving notices

Wise said, "Not a single person has received one that's owner-occupied that says, 'You need to fix this, go to hell.' That's why we haven't sent the letters." While there is no guarantee of financial help, "we're not dragging them to court."

Ferrell added that she asked each alderman to make a list of houses in their wards that needed improvement. "I didn't receive a single email from anybody," she said. After the meeting, she said she misspoke and that Wise, then an alderman, sent a list."

Garrett's last point was that he thought city officials would direct Biggerstaff in which properties to look at, "not the other way around."

Wise said that it did start out that way, and Ferrell expounded, saying as a home inspector, Biggerstaff has more qualifications than she does. That is also why Compliance Office Steve Bane was not involved in citing owners for house violations. "He's not qualified for it," she said.

In unrelated business, the council approved Motor Fuel Tax program bids of \$64,312.16 bid from Daniel Ribbe Trucking for seal coat operations, and \$102,208.12 from SNC Construction for Portland cement concrete for concrete, curbs and gutters.. The bid was corrected to \$102,143.12, said Ald. Stephen Eyrych, street/alley committee chairman.

The seal coat bid was 12 percent under the engineer's estimate, while the concrete bid was over estimate by 23 percent, he said.

The vote was 6-0, with Ald. Kyle Richards absent. Ferrell attended the meeting remotely.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 88. Tonight, cloudy, chance of thunderstorms. Low 69. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of storms late. High 93, low 76. Sunday, chance of showers, storms. High 90, low 66.

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

working order.

Residents are urged, if possible, to refrain from doing laundry on Fridays. The water is safe to drink but residents are encouraged to let faucets run for a short period of time if they notice any discoloration.

Addiction recovery group

Addiction recovery group for men. 6 p.m. Sundays in Rossville. Call or text 217-304-4211 or 217-260-1361 for details.

P.E.P. Potluck

Hoopeston United Methodist Church People Enjoying People potluck will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, at the church, 403 E. Main. Main dish, drinks and table service will be provided. Guests may bring a side dish or dessert to share, if they want. There is no cost.

Specials guests D. Lester and Debbie Dornon, missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries at the Tensen Hospital in Nepal. They will have several items from Nepal to display and a video.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Premier Cooperative is looking to fill a full time operations position at Rossville. Fall seasonal positions also available at Rossville, Ellis, Collison, and Reilly. Call 217-599-0310.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING! Apply at www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities Applications available onsite. EOE

The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a full-time water department employee.

Requirements:

Valid Driver's License

Class B CDL with airbrake endorsement or ability to obtain one

High School diploma or equivalent

A positive attitude and willingness to learn

Strong work ethic

Punctuality and attendance is important for this position. There is opportunity for advancement with the proper training and certification Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or www.cityofhoopeston.com/employment

Seeking a bartender for weekdays and nights. Possibly a weekend day. Our hours are from 7a-7p. Must have a Bassett and Food handlers Cert within 30 days. Stop by Hubbard Trail Country Club or call 217-748-6521.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/

Obituaries

GRANT - Shirley Ann (Richards) Grant, 83, of Hoopeston, died at 2 a.m. Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. She will be cremated and a memorial service held at 11 a.m. Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Animal Rescue Team (H.A.R.T) 901 W. Main, Hoopeston IL 60942. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

MARCUM - Cyrus E. "Cy" Marcum, 88, of Milford, died Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at home. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland, with graveside rites by Watseka American Legion Post 23. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

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Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Hoopeston 4 bedroom one level house large yard, and 2 bedroom ground level duplex. Text or call 217-495-2274

NOTICES

The City of Hoopeston is accepting bids for the 50/50 sidewalk program. Bid specs may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St., or the Street and Alley Department, 434 W Penn St. Bids must be dropped off at City Hall and are due by 10 am Friday, July 29, 2022. Bid opening will be held at City Hall on Friday, July 29, 2022 at 10 am. For questions, please contact City Hall 217-283-5833.

Publication Dates:

Friday, July 15, 2022

Friday, July 22, 2022

RUMMAGE SALES

ROSSVILLE: 14540 E 3400 North Rd. Estate sale. Tools, kitchen & gardening items, furniture & much more. Fri. & Sat., 8-4, Sun. 11-4.

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