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Just the Facts

Monday, August 8, 2022

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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Hoopeston council approves moving on HEMA building, contracts with attorney to find funds

The on again/off again plans for a new building for Hoopeston Emergency Management Agency (HEMA) is back on.

A building where HEMA could store its equipment and conduct training was approved in August 2020, when \$35,000 was listed in the 2021 budget. Aldermen were told that volunteers would provide much of the labor for the project.

Materials were purchased and a frame erected, but work stopped after two volunteers left the area and other volunteers had scheduling conflicts. Miscommunication between whether plumbing or framework should be first, then finding an affordable plumber added to the delay.

Then came Covid-19 supply shortages, which increased the cost of building materials. Meanwhile, left to the elements, some posts shifted and trusses bowed. The skeleton was removed and stored prior to the 2021 National Sweetcorn Festival, with the expectation that the posts would be reset and new trusses

Data info rollover snafu causes registration change for district

Due to unforeseen circumstances with the rollover of our student data information from InfoNow to PowerSchool, online registration for Hoopeston Area schools will be postponed until Monday, August 15 - Wednesday, August 17.

Hoopeston Area is doing all registration online this year.

Registration information and Snapcodes will be mailed this week. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Office staff will still be available to during the following hours:

- Monday, August 15th 8:30-11:30; 12:30-3:30
- Tuesday, August 16th 8:30-11:30; 12:00-6:00
- Wednesday, August 17th 8:30-11:30; 12:30-3:30

purchased.

With the original plan scrapped, officials sought bids to complete the project and bids were sought. In October 2021, the council approved a \$33,906.44 bid from a local company, but soon learned the bid was submitted without the owner's knowledge.

The council rescinded acceptance of that bid and approved the second bid submitted, for \$59,450.75 from Silver Brothers of Hoopeston.

Later, officials learned the original \$35,000 had not been earmarked to carry over into the next budget year and was absorbed into the general fund. It was decided that funds were not available and Brian Silver, of Silver Brothers, agreed to not hold the city to the bid acceptance.

When aldermen budgeted in April for this fiscal year, they discussed using Covid-related ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for the structure, but finance chairman Bob Porth suggested waiting for a while until those funds were more certain.

Briefly

Bowling meeting

Monday Night Women's League will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8 at Fast Lanes. Anyone interested in joining is asked to attend.

Koffee & Konversation

Hoopeston Methodist Church will hold Koffee & Konversation at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Free coffee, sweets and conversation. All are welcome!

At the Library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Stitchin' Time, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew or other needlecraft, bring your project and coffee and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

For more information on library programs, call (217) 283-6711 or visit 110 N. Fourth St.

At Tuesday's meeting, Porth raised the question of whether to move forward with construction or shelve the project.

Ald. Kyle Richards recommended going forward with construction before costs rise more, while Mayor Jeff Wise asked whether officials would have to vote if a new bid was sought.

Porth replied that a new vote would be needed. As far as ARPA funds, he added that they were not yet in hand. "I'm not a trusting person," he said.

Brad Hardcastle, HEMA director, said the city's last installment of ARPA money came in just before last

See BUILDING on other side

**The PIT STOP at
FAST LANES**

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with Special Guest Dennis Stroughmatt

Friday, Aug. 19 8:30 p.m.

Tickets \$25 - call (217) 283-6505

Breakfast served 5:30-10 a.m. Mon.-Fri.
5:30-11 Sat. 5:30-Noon Sun.

Breakfast Buffet

Sat., 7-10 a.m.	Sun. 7 a.m. -1 p.m.
Monday: Spaghetti, Taco Salad or grilled and breaded Tenderloins	
Tuesday: Speedway Burger and Chicken or Beef & Noodles	
Wednesday: Rib eye sandwich and Prime rib sandwich	
Thursday: Swiss steak or Popcorn shrimp	
Friday: Cod, Rib eye steak, and Rib dinners	
Saturday: Prime Rib, Rib eye steak, and Rib dinners	

Building continued from other side

year’s National Sweetcorn Festival and estimated it would again this year.

Silver told the council that the building would be a garage-style construction, which if started quickly, could be up before the festival. A second option, pole barn construction, could also be done.

“If I don’t get the OK tonight, it won’t be done by festival, if that matters to you,” Silver said.

Porth said the rough structure could be done in a first phase, with finishing work done in a second and, if needed, third phase.

Hardcastle said a finished building will now be about \$70,000, with some work being donated.

On a motion by Ald. Joe Garrett, Seconded by Richards, the council approved the action, 8-0.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a contract with Cox Law Firm of Monticello, to look for money to fund water/sewer improvements. Attorney David Cox has worked with ERH Enterprises in the same way, Wise said, adding he believes Cox will find more money for necessary improvements. “And when I say ‘more,’ I mean millions more,” he said.

As part of the agreement, Hoopeston will pay a \$5,800 outstanding bill which has been unpaid for about 18 months, Wise added.

- Approved 50/50 sidewalk bids from Silver Bros., of \$8.44 for sidewalks and \$8.51 for ramps. Silver’s was the only bid received by the city.
- Wise also updated the council on the first meeting of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee, held the evening before.

He told the council that eight of the 19 members attended the meeting and that two of the 19 who agreed to be on the committee resigned before the first meeting.

- Wise also said a second interview was scheduled for one candidate for police chief and that a permanent chief should be named soon.



Bird bath

Three birds take advantage of last week’s rain to bathe in a puddle, while a fourth is not so sure. The Just the Facts weather station recorded 1.72” of rain from Wednesday to Thursday.

From the Blotter

Three people were arrested after police were notified at 4:07 p.m. that packages were taken from a front porch in the 400 block of East Young.

After reviewing video of the theft, police determined a possible location and Found Andrew E.

Thompson, 58, of Iroquois County, and Shane M. Baker 32 and Kaitlyn Jones, 19, both of Hoopeston.

The three were taken to the police station, where they were processed and later released on notices to appear in Hoopeston City Court on theft charges.

Letters to the Editor

Group appreciates pool, splash pad

Shout out for our community’s aquatic gem, The City of Hoopeston Public Swimming Pool and Splash Pad - an oasis of summer fun had, cool refreshment indulged, exercise enjoyed, swimming skills fostered, and friend-

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 9:24 a.m. Saturday to the 300 block Between North Market and North Third St.

A resident reported illegal burning of plastics and asked that the fire be put out.

No injuries were reported.

Court Dispositions

July 13

Jeffrey A. Davis, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for restrictions of burning trash; case sent to state for further enforcement.

Cassidy E. Hurt, Hoopeston, criminal damage to property case dismissed by hearing officer.

Victoria N. Myers, Hoopeston, failed to appear at initial appearance for restraint of dogs, found guilty by default, fined \$10; status hearing August 10.

Death Notices

RUTLEDGE - Linda Rutledge, 79, of Hoopeston, at 2:40 p.m. Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center, Danville. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms, then storms likely today, tonight. High 88, low 66. Tomorrow, chance of storms, partly cloudy late. High 79, low 59.

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

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Fast Lanes is looking for experienced cooks for some evenings and some breakfast. If interested come to Fast Lanes, 719 W. Elm. NO PHONE CALLS.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is **HIRING**, starting pay \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com or applications available on-site. EOE

Premier Cooperative is looking to fill fall seasonal (operational & scale) positions at Rossville, Ellis, Collison, Reilly, Dillsburg, and Royal. Call 217-599-0310.

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/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

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

2 children’s desks, storm door, porcelain bathroom sink, 2 adult bikes & assorted items. Call 217 283-4045 for prices.