Hoopston approves increase in levy to fund police pensions

Hoopston City Council voted 6-0 to approve an $837,385 levy at its meeting Tuesday. The levy is up from the previous $783,385 levy only because the city needs to make up a shortfall in police pension contributions. Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said the $2.5 million deficit is based on an Illinois Department of Insurance formula that uses presuppositions such as 80 percent of officers will be married, officers will be three years older than their spouses, and money accrued will earn 8.5 percent interest.

In Hoopston’s case, one retired officer’s spouse is 14 years younger, meaning that person will collect pension benefits far longer. “That hurt us quite a bit,” Goodwine said. Also, Hoopston’s rate on accrued funds is less than the suggested amount.

To cover the money needed for future pension obligations, officials unanimously approved raising the police pension levy from $296,000 to $350,000. Aldermen Carl Ankenbrand and Chad Yaden were absent, as was Mayor Bill Crusinberry.

In addition, the pension contribution from the General Revenue line item was increased by $35,000 to $75,000. See PENSIONS on other side.

‘Christmas in the Village’ starts Rossville holiday season

Rossville will show its Christmas spirit beginning this weekend, thanks to Rossville Community Organization. Christmas in the Village will be held from December 6-8. Events include: Friday: a bake sale at Bank of Rossville, 111 N. Chicago. Baked goods will be available beginning at 9 a.m.
Saturday: A craft show will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the fire station, 617 N. Chicago. The annual Lighted Christmas Parade will begin at 6 p.m.

A Winter Carnival will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the grade school. The light display in Christmas Park begins for the season. The park will be lit up each night from Saturday through December 31.
Sunday: The Christmas House Walk will be held from 2-5 p.m., with seven locations to visit. Cost is $10 per person. Tickets may be purchased at Rossville Village Office or the first house visited that day. Signs will be posted or the addressees will be listed on Rossville Community Organization Facebook page.

Tedd’s Beverage Shop
101 W. Main St. Hoopston, IL
217-283-7213 • 217-283-7217
Open 7 days a week 7 a.m.-1 a.m.
Cheapest Tobacco to Town! Play Lotto Here!
Cold Beer • Wine • Liquor • Live Video Gaming

TECHPros
For all your Tech Needs
• Computer repair and upgrades
• Malware removal • Home network setup
• Smart home setup • Security cameras
ALEC WISE
903-265-9473
Owner alec@techpros.net

5th Annual Christmas Walk
hosted by Treasured Roots
10 spots to tour! in Hoopston
Saturday, December 7th 3-7 p.m.
Proceeds will be donated to the Grant Township Food Cupboard

Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at Treasured Roots 702 W. Main St. Hoopston IL
Magical Express was wonderful
I wanted to take a moment to share publicly about something wonderful which took place in Hoopeston last Saturday night. Of course, I am talking about the Magical Express, sponsored by the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce.

The Magical Express has been going on for several years now, but this was my first opportunity to attend. Family members came from out-of-town and they, as well as I, were very impressed. We began at the Multi Agency, where we were greeted by an assortment of elves and waited briefly before catching our “train” (school bus) to the McFerren Park Civic Center. The ride was great fun as more elves entertained us with Christmas carols.

When we arrived at the Civic Center, activities were in progress all around the beautifully decorated building. Children could visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy cookie decorating, cocoa, Christmas trees, snowmen, more elves, and lots of free crafts and ornament decorating.

There were a number of local vendors offering all sorts of fun gift ideas, from handmade jewelry, crochet, candy and nuts, candles, holiday décor, and much, much more. (Our little 18-month got tired before we saw everything!) When you add in the wonderful light display outside in the park, it was truly a very nice evening for all!

Thank you so much to everyone who had a part in making the Magical Express so professional and such a success! Activities like this make me very proud to call Hoopeston my hometown!

JoAnn Charbonneau
Hoopeston

Weather