

METROPOLIS PLANET



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County treasurer raises audit report concerns

BY TERRA TEMPLE
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Massac County Treasurer Jody Haverkamp has contacted the Illinois comptroller's office with concerns regarding the county's 2020 audit report.

According to Haverkamp, the report filed by Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, LLC, is not what she approved. According to the Comptroller's Office, Haverkamp wants

the report she approved placed on file, not the final report showing an adverse opinion by Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, LLC, and presented to the Massac County Commission at its Feb. 8 meeting. According to Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, LLC, the approval is of the report's financial statements and notes, not its opinion.

A REVIEW

During its Feb. 8 meeting, Jeff

Stroder, a CPA and partner with Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, LLC, presented the Annual Financial Report (AFR) for year ending Dec. 31, 2020, to commissioner's Jerel Childers, Jayson Farmer and Jeff Brugger; Lynn Hillebrand, chief deputy of the County Clerk's Office; Nicole Giltner, chief deputy of the Treasurer's Office; Kaley

"If you think about it, for any audit, why would you have an outside auditor come in and look at the financial statements if you were going to be able to approve of their opinion? That's not independent anymore."

— Jeff Stroder

CPA, partner with Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, LLC

SEE AUDIT/PAGE A8

Brookport ordinance will allow golf carts in 2023

BY ANN DOUGLAS

All aldermen, except Sandy Bailey of Ward 1, were present for the March 8 Brookport council meeting, and all motions were unanimously approved.

There will be limited city hall hours due to the city clerk's illness. Hours will be 8-11:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, it will be from noon until 3 p.m. Because of the limited hours, the wheel tax deadline is extended to March 30. Water shut offs will start March 10.

There was no treasurer's report since Alison Boyt had not yet received the bank statements to reconcile figures. The collector's report of \$73,886.53 was also not reconciled. Boyt will email aldermen after she receives the statements.

Bills totaling \$32,023.21 were approved payment by council. Out of the DCEO grant, authorization to pay for cement sealant in the amount of \$502.64 for the new maintenance building was made. A third payment from that grant, of \$13,250 to Southern Five Regional Planning, was also approved. In addition, payment of application No. 3, totaling \$189,801.58, which includes the \$4,535.30 for the electrical upgrade, was approved from the same DCEO grant.

SEE CARTS/PAGE A6



Contributed photo

Shown are some of the items that are up for auction. The supper is Saturday, March 26, from 4-7 p.m. at Metropolis Junior High School. To purchase tickets, contact Burnett at 618-638-7021 or Bob Wessel at 270-217-2925. All monies raised provide scholarships for Massac County and Joppa High School seniors.

Auction block grows for Kiwanis and Rotary annual fundraiser

BY PLANET STAFF

With the big fundraiser a little over a week away, items from local crafts persons and businesses continue to pour in for the Metropolis Kiwanis and Rotary Scholarship Spaghetti Supper.

Those interested in donating items for the auction can contact Landon Bremer or Lisa Parmer at 618-524-2161 by Friday, March 18.

The Scholarship Spaghetti Supper will be 4-7 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at Massac Junior High School. Tickets are \$10 for adults or \$5 for children ages 5 to 10 and are now available from Kiwanis or Rotary members or Massac County High School Key Club members.



Contributed photo

City National Bank recently presented a \$1,000 donation to the Kiwanis Club of Metropolis for the annual Metropolis Kiwanis and Rotary Scholarship Spaghetti Supper. CNB's Monica Thompson (left) and Jared Quint (right) make the presentation to Kiwanians Dave Park and Nelda Burnett.

SEE AUCTION/PAGE A6

City council approves first phase of new parking lot

BY TERRA TEMPLE

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A new parking lot will soon be under construction in uptown Metropolis.

The Metropolis City Council approved Quint Excavating to do the Contract A work of the lot, located at 604 and 608 Pearl St., for a cost of \$129,737.20. The work includes excavation; storm sewer installation; sidewalk, curb, gut-

ter and pavement removal; utility work; retaining wall; some patching; and signage removal.

The approval was made during Monday's meeting, March 14, during which Ward 1 alderman Chuck Short was mayor pro tem in the absence of Mayor Don Canada. Ward 2 alderman Dylan Chambers was also absent.

The council approved the purchase of the lot during

its June 28, 2021, meeting for \$41,000. The property is located directly behind Market Street, and connects via an alley. At the time of the purchase, the city budgeted to turn the property into a parking lot for the uptown area.

The council adopted an ordinance approving a net metering policy and customer self-generation interconnection policy for the city,

which amends Title I, Public Works, Chapter 50, Electricity, Sections 50.35 through and including 50.46.

The council held the first reading of policy dealing with solar power at its Feb. 28 meeting.

THE ORDINANCE

- Establishes net metering as the method for allowing electric utility customers to deliver any excess electricity

generated by their qualifying renewable generator back to the electric utility and receive a fair credit.

- And, establishes the city's Fair Solar Credit for 2022 as \$0.0541 per kilowatt hour. The Fair Solar Credit is the credit provided to the retail customer for the value of local solar production. It will change yearly.

SEE PARKING/PAGE A6



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