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March 20-24

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**Just the Facts**

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348  
 Lourdine Florek, Owner

Monday, March 20, 2017

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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**Dispatching returns; residents urged to use 911 for emergencies**

After a six-month absence, police and fire dispatching was returned to Hoopeston late last week.  
 The switch was flipped at about 3:30 p.m. Friday, said Hoopeston Police Sgt. Jim DeWitt.  
 And while the change back to local dispatching is welcomed by residents, DeWitt is asking residents to dial 911 for all emergencies, especially those that might require an ambulance.  
 During Hoopeston's ongoing efforts to return dispatching, Arrow Ambulance, which had been dispatched by Hoopeston, set up its own dispatch center and will continue to dispatch ambulance calls.

If a resident were to call the local dispatch number, the call would have to be transferred to Vermilion County, where the 911 center would take information and send it to Arrow to be dispatched.  
 That process adds extra time which could be avoided if callers dial 911 immediately, DeWitt said.  
 In the case of 911 police and fire calls, Vermilion County will answer the calls, as they have for several months. Communications employees will gather information about the situation and put details in the computer assisted dispatch (CAD) system and send it to Hoopeston  
**See DISPATCH on other side**

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### Dispatch continued from other side

by computer. Hoopeston dispatchers will then have police and/or fire personnel respond.

Non-emergency and administrative calls to the local number will be answered and dispatched by Hoopeston dispatchers.

While a cat in a tree can be handled by a call to the administrative line, 283-5196, many other calls should be made directly to 911, DeWitt said. In what seems like a minor accident, someone may have hit their head or have a heart attack as a result, so calling 911 "is the quickest, most efficient way to do it," he said.

Even a car broken down in the road should be directed to 911. "It's an emergency (to the person whose car is broken)," said DeWitt. Getting emergency personnel, with their flashing lights, to the scene more quickly will alert other motorists of the problem and avert related problems.

A good rule of thumb is if fire or police are needed, it's an emergency, he said.

In all cases, information will be sent to Hoopeston to be dispatched, he said.

The return of local dispatch is a relief for many residents who attended multiple Hoopeston City Council meetings to get it back after dispatch was transferred to Vermilion County in September.

While officials originally said the transfer was working

### Correction

A headline on a story in Friday's issue about a Hoopeston man's arrest for child endangerment was misleading. "Hoopeston pleads not guilty..." should have been "Hoopeston man pleads not guilty..."

Also, Apolinar Solis Jr., was released on \$5,000 bond, not \$500 as reported.

Just the Facts regrets the errors.

### Obituaries

**SCHWARTZ** - Artis "Wayne" Schwartz, 56, of Sheldon, died at 8:12 a.m. Thursday, March 16, 2017 at home. He will be cremated and a service held at a later date. Memorials are suggested to Wayne Schwartz Memorial Fund at Main Source Bank 323 E. Main St. Hoopeston, IL 60942. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling the arrangements.

smoothly, more than 80 residents attended the November 1, 2016 council meeting to speak out against the change and ask that dispatching be returned.

In late December, Ald. Brandon Hamilton, chairman of the police committee, which oversees dispatching, was still waiting for information on the steps needed to bring local dispatching back.

In January, Hamilton said some progress had been made in returning police and fire dispatching.

In February, the council reviewed the cost of returning dispatch to Hoopeston as residents countered by asking the council to consider the human cost of leaving dispatching in Danville.

Amid discussions at council meetings, residents filed Freedom of Information requests, one with Hoopeston and another with Vermilion County, for copies of documents and emails between the two governmental bodies. The request to Vermilion County turned up a January 6 proposed contract from the county Emergency Telephone Systems Board (ETSB) that would return dispatch to Hoopeston and forgive debt the ETSB claimed it was owed for services and items it paid for Hoopeston dispatch.

Residents made the proposed contract available to aldermen before the March 7 council meeting where, after much discussion, the council voted 6-2 to bring dispatching back.

### From the Blotter

**Police are investigating** a hit-and-run accident at 6:44 p.m. Saturday in the 300 block of North Market. An unknown vehicle hit a vehicle owned by Lance Fulton of Hoopeston.

**Claudia M. Wakefield**, 49, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 9:01 p.m. Saturday at Penn and Third St. Charged with driving while license suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle, she was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

### Weather

Thunderstorms today, then showers. High 57. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 37. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, then chance of showers. High 50, low. 27.

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