

## Hoopeston Jaycees Christmas Tree Sale

at LCR Building  
112 W. Main, Hoopeston  
6'-12' Trees  
Open 5-8 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat., 1-5 Sun.

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Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

## Just the Facts®

Phone/Fax  
(217) 283-9348

**Wednesday, Nov. 26, 1997**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 [www.advancenet.net/~lflorek](http://www.advancenet.net/~lflorek)**

### Cost of rural fire protection burning issue for township officials

Grant Township officials may ask rural residents to dig deeper for fire protection.

At a special meeting Tuesday, township officials and residents discussed a proposed increase in the township's contract with Hoopeston for fire protection.

Grant Township has contracted fire protection with the Hoopeston Fire Department since 1993. Rural township residents pay .0594 per \$100 assessed valuation.

On an equalized assessed valuation of \$12,651,375, the rate generates \$7,514 annually.

If the increase is approved, the rate will go to .1028, generating \$13,005, said township supervisor Carol Flint.

The proposed rate would be less than the .2450 rate paid by Hoopeston residents and less than that paid by residents of five neighboring districts.

Flint presented a chart showing residents in the Rossville fire protection district paying .2606;

Bismarck, .2064; Vermilion/Ford/Iroquois, .2918; Wellington/Greer, .2782 and Milford, .2966.

The increase, requested by the city, is part of a five-year plan which could raise the rate to as much as .4000 to pay for equipment and personnel and also improve the Hoopeston department's ability to fight rural fires.

Chief Brian Laird said the department has installed one dry hydrant on Conservation Club Road and would like to install four to six additional dry hydrants in the township. Parts for the hydrants cost approximately \$500 each, he said.

The increase would also offset losses covered by the city for rural fire protection.

The department had responded to rural fires with one truck and four or five firemen, Laird said. That has increased to three trucks, with a capacity to carry 3,000 gallons of water, and eight firefighters, he said.

**See FIRE on other side**

### Looking back on the good during a time to be thankful

Ah, Thanksgiving - a time to reflection all the good things that have happened in one's life and look forward to stuffing oneself like a pig.

Being somewhat of a pessimist, it's not easy for me to look at the good things. With the motto "every silver cloud has a dark lining," life's good things often get lost in a fog.

It's not that good things don't happen. I've been especially blessed this year - as I have been most years.

I've made some new, good friends this year, for whom I'm very thankful. I also have some old (I mean not-so-new) friends who are very dear, even when they're

The  
Second Cup



being curmudgeonly.

I'm even thankful for the people I consider friends who would prefer nobody know they're my friends. Since it's the season to be nice, I won't name them here.

I'm thankful for my family: my daughter, who rarely e-mails; my mother and sisters who help celebrate my joys and lend an ear when I need to vent.

I'm thankful that my little venture into local news will soon celebrate its fourth birthday. I'm thankful for my advertisers and those people who call me with stories

**See THANKFUL on other side**

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Save the Turkey-Have a Whopper™!

**Burger King**  
will be open  
**7 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Thursday**

**BURGER KING**

Routes 1 & 9, Hoopeston

Santa Says

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**Fire continued from other side**

Increasing the number of trucks and personnel has added to the cost of fighting fires, Laird said. In 1996, the department responded to 19 rural fires.

Of the \$7,514 paid to the city, \$6,600 went to personnel expenses, leaving little for depreciation, fuel, equipment costs and insurance, he said. Those costs, totaling \$3,000 to \$4,000 yearly, have been paid by the city.

Some of the 14 people attending questioned whether the township could form its own fire protection district or a special service district and whether farmland could be excluded from the increase, or at least taxed at a lower rate.

Township attorney William Nelson said when fire protection was mandated by the state, special service districts were not allowed. A separate protection district would cost more than the proposed increase, he added.

And, he said, tax rates on farmland are set in Springfield with no way of lowering the fire protection rate.

The township could opt not to sign a contract with the city, but then would be assigned to a fire protection district, probably Bismarck’s, Flint said. “It doesn’t make sense to have a fire truck coming from Bismarck when Hoopeston is right here,” she said.

Also, if the township does not sign a contract, the city does not have to provide fire protection for rural residents.

Laird stressed the city would continue to fight rural fires. “We’ll still protect it,” he said. “We always have. What are you willing to pay? From what I’m hearing, not much.”

Township officials will vote on the issue on Dec. 8.

**Obituaries**

**COX -** George C. Cox, 78, of Rossville, died at 8:55 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, 1997, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Danville. Services, with military graveside rites by Rossville American Legion Post #733, will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville. Burial will be in Rossville Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

**FOSTER -** Annabelle Foster, 70, of Rossville, died at 7:45 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1997, at United Samaritans Medical Center, Sager campus, Danville. Arrangements are pending at the Wolfe Funeral Home,

**Letter to the Editor**

**Christmas event, organizers lauded**

Something exciting happened in Hoopeston Saturday night.

The Hoopeston merchants were open and Hoopeston citizens and their talented children were downtown shopping, entertaining and socializing - and it was magnificent.

The success of the evening was in large part due to the organization and work of Robin and Brian Lawson.

A big “thank-you.”

**Barbara and David Powley  
Hoopeston**

**Police News**

**Two people were arrested** following a fight at 4:22 p.m. Monday in the 700 block of East Penn.

Terry W. Mullens, 41, of 522 W. Chestnut, was charged with battery, while Brian L. Edwards, 24, of 601 E. Lincoln, ws charged with disorderly conduct.

Each was released on a notice to appear.

The arrests were made on a complaint from Scott Ford, 830 E. Seminary.

**Thankful continued from other side**

and ideas. Without them, there wouldn’t be a Just the Facts.

Along those lines, I’m thankful for all the neat people I’ve met in my years in Hoopeston.

I’m thankful to live in Hoopeston. It’s not a perfect place, and some days it resembles Peyton Place, but it’s a really good place to live.

I’m thankful for the things we have here: a neat library, a grocery store that never closes, other stores

where I can find most things I need or want.

I’m thankful for short city council and school board meetings and Neighborhood Watch meetings that don’t run much over an hour.

I’m thankful for my apartment and the food I eat. I’m thankful few people made fun of my hair when it was purple.

As much as I’m thankful for the people in my life and the neat things that have happened, I’m just as thankful for things that didn’t happen.

Nobody I care about committed an ax murder and my daughter hasn’t felt the need to come home with a spiked-haired, tatooed, jobless rock start wannabe. That’s really something to be thankful for.

And, as always, I’m thankful I’m not a turkey.

**In the Hospital**

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
**Nov. 24, 1997**

**Admitted:** Regina DeVillers, Hoopeston.  
**Discharged:** Viola Barth, Roxia Geddes

**Weather**

Mostly cloudy today. High 43. Tonight, cloudy. Low 26. Tomorrow, windy. High 50, low 33.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

**Briefly**

**Toys for Tots donations needed**

Anyone wishing to donate to Toys for Tots may bring new or good used toys to: Jerry’s IGA, Routes 1 and 9; McDonald’s, Routes 1 and 9; Travel Discoveries, 218 E. Main; or Jaycees Christmas Tree Sales at LCR Building, 112 W. Main.

If you have questions, please call Delores Crabtree, (217) 283-7896.



**Gaddis Nursery**  
**Christmas Trees**

are here!

Trees from 4’ - 9’

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sat. 9-4 Sun. 12-4

Delivery Available

**(217) 283-5016**

*Merry Christmas*

**Dave, Penny & Jeremy Gaddis**

# Classifieds

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## HELP WANTED

Delivery person needed for Just the Facts Sunday through Thursday. Must be reliable, have insured vehicle. Call (217) 283-9348.

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Immediate opening for full-time clerk at Hoopeston Area High School. Send letter of application **ONLY** (no phone calls, please) to Superintendent’s Office, 615 E. Orange, Hoopeston, IL 60942

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## RUMMAGE SALES

Huge rummage sale Nov. 28,29, Wayne’s World Arcade, 109 E. Main, Hoopeston. 8 a.m.-? Lots of new Christmas items, other items too numerous to mention. 329-332

Moving sale, 710 S. Market. Wardrobe, couch, chairs, tables, knickknacks, baby clothes. Going on now. Noon-?. New things added daily.



**Need some extra Christmas green?**  
**Sell unwanted items with a Just the Facts classified. Call (217) 283-9348.**