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Sparks fly over proposed site of new Rossville fire station

ROSSVILLE—Construction of a new fire station has turned into a hot topic in Rossville.

The fire protection district and fire department hope to purchase three acres in the Morts and Mann subdivision on Route 1.

Officials met with the village zoning board of appeals Thursday, hoping to have the property zoned from residential to commercial, allowing them to build a new station.

The zoning board tabled the request pending a decision from village attorney Steve Miller of Acton and Snyder, Danville, as to whether a special use permit may be issued rather than rezoning the property, said zoning committee chairman Gene Roach.

The request is not without opposition, Roach said. "A few—but not all—adjacent property owners object to it," he said. "They're concerned it will open the door to further rezoning along Route 1."

he zoning board had hoped to meet again Jan. 27 but Roach said all the necessary information will not be available in time. The meeting has been postponed indefinitely.

Although fire officials hope to have the property rezoned and purchase it in the near future, constructing a

fire station is approximately two years in the future, said Rossville Fire Chief Lloyd Smith.

Before construction begins, fire officials must first complete payments on a fire truck. When the truck is paid for, the fire district may then take on mortgage payments.

Before the fire district takes on mortgage payments, they will first try to get a state grant to pay for construction, Smith said.

A new site for a fire station has been considered for about three years, he said. Officials looked in the downtown area but were unable to find property large enough. Areas south of town were also considered but were not for sale, Smith said.

The property currently being considered is large enough to allow access from all sides and include landscaping to "shield it from the neighbors," he said.

Smith admitted some residents of adjacent property are against a fire station in their neighborhood. "It seems like some of them are fighting it tooth and toenail," he said.

Concerns include decreased property values, the potential danger of fire trucks running past Rossville-Alvin schools and increased property taxes. However, he said, the new fire station "will not be a metal pole building but something that will fit right into the neighborhood."

As for posing a threat to students, Smith said 88 percent of department calls are after school hours or on weekends. "We try not to be flying by the schools even in an emergency situation," he said.

Smith does not expect tax rates to increase. Currently, he said, the owner of a \$100,000 home pays approximately \$28 for fire protection. That amount is offset in many instances by lower insurance premiums based on

See STATION on other side

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Feb. 2 Country Buffet
Feb. 11 Steak Fry
Feb. 12 Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast
Valentine dinner/dance
Feb. 19 Country Buffet
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— Briefly —

Sweetheart Banquet

The Hoopeston Area High School Drama Department, S.A.A.D., Authors' Society and Student council are sponsoring the ninth annual Senior Citizen Sweetheart Banquet.

The event will be held at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11 in the high school gym.

Any Hoopeston Area senior citizen interested in attending is asked to call (217) 283-6668 and leave their name(s) and how many will be attending in their party. The deadline for registering to attend the

event is Feb. 1.

Bowling tournament

the Hoopeston Men's Bowling Association will begin its team bowling tournament on Jan. 25. The only requirement is that all five members me members of the Hoopeston Bowling Association. There are openings on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

For more information, call Pla-Mor Lanes, (217) 283-5195, Keith Hicks, 283-5364 or Hank Long-fellow, (815) 984-4200.

★ Police News ★

A black Batman wallet was reported missing Sunday. Anyone finding it is asked to turn it in at the police station.

Cynthia L. Lollar, 36, of Hoopeston, was ticketed for disobeying a traffic sign following an accident at 8:28 a.m. Monday.

Police said Lollar, in a 1997 Jeep, slid through the

intersection of East Main and Sixth St. and hit a 1993 Lincoln driven by Sharon Johnson of Hoopeston.

No injuries were reported.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Jan. 20

Admitted: Susan Perkins, Hoopeston; Mary Anderson, Cissna Park.

Discharged: Luella Gilbert.

Jan. 21

Admitted: Charles Burton, East Lynn; Martha Barker, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Samuel Ault.

Jan. 22

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Susan Perkins, Charles Burton, Martha Barker, Mary Anderson.

Jan. 23

Admitted: Ricky Elson, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Windy, chance of flurries today. High 16. Tonight, clear. Low -5 to 5. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, cold. High 13, low -5 to 5.

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

Station continued from other side

an ISO rating, given by an insurance organizations' ratings group, that dropped from nine to five. "They could be saving \$100 to \$300 a year on insurance."

Smith said the department needs a new station to provide rooms for office space and a training area. The existing fire station was built in 1943.

Anyone with questions about the proposal may contact Smith at (217) 339-2295 or Randy Lusk, (217) 748-6816.

Pork Chop Night

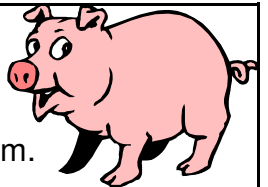
Friday, Jan. 28 5-8 p.m.

American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

**Butterfly pork chops,
baked potato, salad, roll**

\$8



Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting right away, we will be taking clothing on consignment. Must be clean and in very good condition. No junk or damaged clothing. Kids clothing sells great. Countryside Mall, (217) 283-9716. 024-028

HELP WANTED

Full time or part time positions available immediately for the Food Service Department. Competitive, in-town wages, early hours, vacation and sick time benefits. Call Beth at (217) 283-5531, ext. 200 or apply at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Position open for person with woodworking experience and skills. Knowledge of pattern work a plus. Wage based on experience. Please send resume or apply at: Vermilion Iron Works, P.O. box 27, 200 N. Sixth Ave., Hoopeston, IL 60942. 019-025

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