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We have new things in stock: new jewelry, gift items & new toys. Steve's new toys include percussion alligators, owls, frogs & crickets. New Brain Bending Puzzles—if you solve one in five minutes, it is free. Also a new game, Gobbler Jr., which is a three-dimensional tic-tac-toe-style game.

Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

## **Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>**

**Thursday, September 15, 2005**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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## **Council approves first step in bidding Baer Trailer Park**

An ordinance approved at a special meeting of the Hoopeston City Council Tuesday night is the first step in selling land that was the former Baer's Trailer Park.

The council had earmarked one part of the ground for a motel and had approved giving the second parcel to Lee Cox for a monument/stone engraving business but that was halted after city attorney Brian Manion told the council that by state law, the council must first approve an ordinance, then put the land up for bids.

A legal notice appearing in the Sept. 14 issue of The Chronicle gives the legal description of each piece and says the two will be bid "for the purpose of economic development."

A previous legal notice sought bids on the ground specifically for a motel and monument/stone engraving business.

Bidders who want the council to consider factors other than dollar amounts must submit a development plan with a bid, said Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman.

In unrelated action, the board, by a 4-3-1 vote, failed to approve Mayor Bill DeWitt's choice for zoning administrator/compliance officer.

DeWitt recommended Gary Nelson as his candidate for the job after the city advertised the position. DeWitt

**See COUNCIL on other side**

## **Township building deteriorating, new structure discussed**

The Grant Township garage is heading south.

The top of the existing building has shifted five to six inches south, said Road Commissioner Gary Weinard at Tuesday's regular township trustees meeting.

The building, on Orange St., has several other problems, including no insulation in the side walls, makeshift trusses, sagging supports and inefficient single-pane windows, said Weinard, who showed pictures of the building's problems.

Weinard and his employees took a close look at the building when discussing the need to have a heated shop to warm up trucks after plowing snow this winter. The current building has one semi-heated bay but the heat is wasted with the other problems, he said.

His first thought was to have the building straightened and repairs made but that may be difficult, said Weinard, adding he talked to contractors about doing the work. "Everybody says 'gee whiz, you've got a problem,'" he said.

Even if a contractor agreed to fix the problems, the

cost could be a sizeable chunk of what a new building would cost. A rough estimate of a 60'x100' structure is \$70,000-\$100,000.

"I think we're at a point where it might be a good idea if we think about (a new building) at the annex," he told the board, saying the existing building, which once housed mules, "is obsolete, really."

The township annex is located near Hoopeston Area High School and is currently used for stockpiling rock and other materials.

In making a case for a new building, Weinard said the cost of building materials will probably increase considerably in the next few months and that by contracting construction this year, the township could save as much as 20 to 30 percent on what a similar building will cost next year.

The township road equipment fund has about \$50,000, part of which could go towards a new building but Weinard said he does not want to deplete that fund in

**See TOWNSHIP on other side**

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## Council continued from other side

said the field of candidates was narrowed to two and then he looked at each candidate's own property before making a recommendation. "(Nelson's) property was absolutely spotless," he said.

DeWitt said Nelson received a degree in industrial technology from Southern Illinois University - Carbon-dale and is a licensed home inspector and had served as a home inspector in Champaign.

Voting against Nelson were members Gail Lane, Ed Lotz, Carl Ankenbrand and Brandon Hamilton. Council members Nancy Stipp, Bill Crusinberry and Bill Goodwine voted in favor and Alderman Jerry Yonkers abstained.

"Maybe we should hire someone from an outside source," DeWitt said after the vote. "We seem to be

## Township continued from other side

case an emergency situation arises with equipment. "With everything the way it is, I hate to say 'let's go spend \$100,000,'" he said but "we don't want to spend a lot of money on (the building) we've got."

One option may be to find low- or interest-free financing for some of the cost.

Weinard plans to get a more exact estimate of the cost and necessary specifications to bring to the board.

In related road matters, Weinard said some people have questioned why township employees are mowing some rights-of-way. "It's really a matter of safety," he said. Because the township has the manpower, tractor and mower, the only cost is that for diesel fuel and the mowing may help prevent accidents, he said.

In other action, the board:  
 • approved a \$3,150 tax levy for the Grant Township

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having some difficulty filling the position. We can't find anyone who will satisfy everyone."

This was the third time the council has addressed the issue. After initially making a recommendation, the council approved accepting applications for the position.

In other action, the council:

• approved a resolution seeking help from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in determining environmental factors at the former Hoopeston Fertilizer plant on Thompson Ave.

The resolution is the first step in applying for a state brownfields grant to provide remediation of environmental problems there.

• approved a \$7,768 bid from Life Safety Designs, Danville, for new audio-visual equipment in the police de-

Area Community Ambulance District. The amount has remained the same since the levy was implemented many years ago, said Supervisor Bill Boose.

• changed the October and November meeting dates to Oct. 12 and November 8.

• approved a National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) resolution. The resolution deals with response to emergency situations and is tied to receiving disaster funding.

## Weather



Partly cloudy today and tonight. High 77, low 54. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 80, low 53

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service (217) 283-6221.

**Now Open**  
 For everyone who loves Christmas,  
**Rossville is again the place to be.**  
**Gallerie Christmas is now open.**  
 Lots of unusual Holiday items. In  
**Gallerie Romantique's**  
 second room right at the downtown stoplight corner.  
 Expanded store hours, now 9:30-4:30 Tues.-Sat.

partment cells and interview room.

• tabled action on increasing the number of special event licenses at the McFerren Park Civic Center and accepting the former Amvets building on Market St. from Community Bank.

## Obituaries

**WILKEN**—Lois Jean Wilken, 74, of Carlsbad, N.M. died Thursday, Sept. 8, 2005 at home. A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Milford Christian Church. Burial will be in Body Cemetery Woodland. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, was in charge of arrangements.

## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rossville: 1-2 bdrs. Riverview Apartments. Completely refurbished, on-site washers & dryers. 1 bdr. \$310/mo., \$310 deposit; 2 bdr., \$360/mo., \$360 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672.

### CHILD CARE

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Licensed daycare provider now accepting applications for full and part time children ages 2-5. Providing a structured environment, nutritious meals and snacks and fun learning activities. Please call Megan at 283-4405 for more information.

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### VEHICLES FOR SALE

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