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**Wednesday, February 22, 2006**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942** **www.justthefacts.net**

## Reports negate TV allegation of Vermilion County surplus

DANVILLE—An area television station reported last week that Vermilion County has a surplus of more than \$3 million but according to reports, there is no surplus in county funds.

The incident started when the station filed a Freedom of Information Act request seeking year-end balances of county funds. On paper anyway, the list showed the windfall.

The alleged surplus is actually Motor Fuel Tax money paid in the form of a \$5.6 million check paid in late 2005 by the state when it turned the Catlin-Tilton Road over to county control, according to reports.

The money is earmarked for road repairs and maintenance.

County board chairman Bill Boyer did not return phone calls but Gary Weinard, District I representative, said last week that the funds are dedicated funds earmarked for road improvement and cannot be used for other purposes.

Weinard, also Grant Township Road Commissioner, said the same rules apply to road funds at the township level. For example, he said, funds in the joint road and bridge fund cannot be used to fix potholes on county roads.

Weinard also quashed rumors of misappropriation of county money. "There has been no misappropriation or misuse of funds at all," he said. "I'm very satisfied that there's been nothing done wrong."

## Rossville trustees schedule village cleanup day for June 10

ROSSVILLE—Despite rising costs, village officials will host another All Town Cleanup Day in an effort to rid Rossville of burn barrels.

At Monday's regular board meeting, trustees unanimously approved hosting cleanup day on June 10.

"It's getting costlier and costlier," said Mayor Terry Prillaman. When cleanup day started in the early 1990s, the cost to the village was about \$1,500. Last year's tab was \$3,348. Although bids have not yet been sought for this year's event, Prillaman said an approximation of the same services this year will cost about \$4,500 plus \$600 for a 30-yard dumpster for appliances and an environmental and fuel surcharge.

Trustees agreed that in light of the ban on burn barrels - and the village's stance that they will pick up barrels that cannot be disposed of any other way - they would foot the bill for another cleanup.

"It's the perfect opportunity for them to get rid of (burn barrels)," said Trustee Mark Catron.

As in previous years, residents may also rid themselves of unwanted appliances at a cost of \$10 per appliance, payable in advance of cleanup day.

In unrelated action, the board approved purchasing a new meter for the high school building that will more accurately read low flow situations such as water dispensed from drinking fountains.

Looking at a spread sheet of the last several years, Trustee Dick Queen noted that water usage appears to have dropped about 25 percent.

Prillaman pointed out that student enrollment had not dropped an equal percentage. "That's usually an indication of a bad meter," he said.

The meter is expected to cost about \$1,000, leading the board to discuss whether the cost should come from this year's budget, which is already approximately \$1,000 over budget, or next year's. "I'd really like to see it done as soon as possible with readings the way they

**See ROSSVILLE on other side**

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The granddaughter of an 80-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Monday that over the weekend, someone took numerous items from her grandmother's garage. The burglary occurred in the 700 block of South Fourth St.

Employees of Casey's General Store, 1022 W. Penn, reported at 6:11 a.m. Tuesday that someone pumped

## Three cases of Norwalk virus reported in Vermilion County

Three confirmed cases of Norwalk virus – also known as Norovirus–have been identified in Vermilion County. Environmental Health Director Kolby Riggle said hand washing is always important, but even more so when Norwalk virus is present. "Careful, thorough hand washing is really your only defense against the Norwalk virus," he said. "Anyone who works in the food service industry needs to take special care to properly wash their hands before handling, preparing, or serving food."

Norwalk and related viruses are an important cause of

### Rossville continued from other side

are," Prillaman said.

In other discussion, the board heard from Marilyn Danner of the Rossville Community Organization about a proposal for a Northfork Riverwalk Recreation Area around an L-shaped pond on village property.

The proposal includes suggestions to clean the area up and create a recreation area including a fishing pier, picnic area and planter box berm. The plan also suggests a walking/biking path from the pond to Hubbard Trail Country Club. One source of funding is through the state's Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program, Danner said.

Trustee Dick Queen, an RCO member and chairman of the village's public improvements committee, said the group favors the program. "We think it's a shame we don't do something (with the pond) since we own it," he said.

In other business, the board:

- Tabled action on taking down a hackberry tree in the alley south of the fire area. The village had agreed to remove the tree as part of straightening the alley but some trustees want to see economic development started

## Police News

\$40 in gas, paid \$16 and left.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:05 a.m. Tuesday at Maple School, 500 E. Maple.

Police said Jane Lane of Hoopeston, in a 1985 Dodge, pulled in to park and struck a parked 2000 Chevrolet driven by Jill Inman, also of Hoopeston.

A 69-year-old Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that

gastrointestinal illness. Symptoms usually occur 24-48 hours after exposure. They include: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, muscle aches, headache, tiredness, and low-grade fever, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The Vermilion County Health Department advises people to follow proper hand washing steps: wet hands with soap and warm water; rub hands for 20 seconds, cleaning under fingernails and between fingers; rinse under warm, running water; dry on a clean towel; turn off water with paper towel and dispose of the towel.

before the tree is removed.

- Approved Motor Fuel Tax resolutions, one for \$1,180 for coring on Gilbert St. and the other for \$39,010 for road maintenance and other projects.

- Heard from trustee Scott Sprague that the gas price will be \$1.14 per therm, subject to last-minute changes. Last month's rate was \$1.22 per therm.

- Heard from Sprague about the need to reactivate a drainage district to handle water concerns on the new Masengale subdivision. An ad hoc committee will be formed to study the issue.

- Approved seeking bids to have a sanitary sewer line installed on the south end of the Masengale subdivision.

- Approved a master parade list for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

## Weather



Decreasing clouds today. High 43. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 27. Tomorrow, sunny. High 43, low 25.

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



someone broke into his 1994 Ford Escort, damaged the stereo and ransacked the vehicle. The burglary occurred in the 500 block of East Main.

A 22-year-old Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that someone took a CD player from his 1993 Chrysler in the 700 block of South First Ave.

## Celebration of Life

Benefit for

**Sandy Trumann Crothers**

**Saturday, Feb. 25**

**Ruby Nell's**

225 E. Main, Hoopeston

**Chili Dinner by the Crusinberrys**

**4-6 p.m.**

Live music by

**Generation II and The Hands**

**6 p.m.-?**

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**Raffles for Digital Camera with printer,  
portable DVD Player, Gift Basket**

*Sandy was recently diagnosed with liver and bone cancer and has no health insurance. All proceeds to Sandy and her family. To make a donation, call Stephanie Reffett, 283-4921 or Alisa Vogel, 443-2542.*

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