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Rossville Village Board puts teeth into vicious dog ordinance

ROSSVILLE—Owners of vicious dogs in the village will have a bite taken out of their wallets following Monday night's Rossville Village Board meeting.

The board approved amending its animal ordinances to include higher fines for owners of dogs deemed vicious. "The new one gives us some teeth in it," said Mayor Terry Prillaman.

Under the existing ordinance, violators of dog ordinances were fined \$25. The amendment increases to \$150 the fines for owners of vicious dogs, defined as animals that, when unprovoked, bites or otherwise attacks a human or other animal on public or private property or when the owner of a dog known to be dangerous is found to be in violation of the ordinance on two sepa-

rate occasions.

The board also discussed dropping coverage by Vermilion County Animal Control and its \$2,000 annual fee. "It doesn't seem like they do that much," said trustee Tom Gregory.

Prillaman responded that budget cuts at the county level have decreased services and that not having a dog catcher in the village causes many problems. "When you eliminated the dog catcher, you opened up a can of works like you haven't seen before," he said, adding that the village paid the former dog catcher more in mileage than it pays now to the county.

Trustee Bunny Tweedy agreed that county coverage is

See ROSSVILLE on other side

Hoopeston Area step closer to co-op baseball with Rossville

Hoopeston Area school board is expected to vote in June on whether to co-op middle school baseball with Rossville-Alvin.

At Thursday night's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting, high school Principal Hank Hornbeck outlined the program, which would be open only to Hoopeston Area eighth graders. Hornbeck said 19 eighth grade students were interested in playing but that if seventh graders were also included, it would "give us way too many kids," with a potential for 40 young athletes between Hoopeston Area and Rossville-Alvin, a number too unwieldy with the team's no-cut policy.

The proposed two-year agreement calls for Hoopeston Area to pay for an assistant coach.

In unrelated action, the board unanimously approved a new computer system for managing student data.

Two proposals were reviewed, one from MMS, whose system the district currently uses, and Software Technology, Inc.

The MMS system "only with great difficulty can han-

dle the new requirements that the state forced on us," said Superintendent Mark Conolly. STI's web-based system allows latitude "now but well into the future."

Board member Larry Jahn said the existing system is DOS-based and has been used for about 15 years. MMS's use in the state is limited while STI is in more than 500 districts.

Officials hope the transition on the \$30,490 system will be completed over the summer.

In other action, the board:

- Approved resignations from grade school art teacher Donna Brown, who is retiring, along with speech/language pathologist Katie Clayton; Honeywell learning disabilities teacher Emily Jones; Mike Caparula, high school drama director; middle school cheerleading sponsor Donna Hiltz and Lisa Miller, middle school personal aide.

- Approved hiring Jeff Ohlemeyer as high/middle school dean of students.

See HA on other side

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Police News



Two men were arrested on alcohol charges at 10:22 p.m. Thursday.

Jason Z. Hamilton, 20, of 41367 Main St., East Lynn, and Jonathon I. Sisk, 19, of 301 E. Washington were arrested in the 100 block of East Lincoln. Each was charged with illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor and was released on a notice to appear.

A 34-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Saturday that someone scratched her vehicle while it was parked

in the 800 block of East McCracken.

Joseph S. Senk, 34, of 2605 S. Lombard, Cicero, was arrested at Saturday, charged with theft of services.

Senk was charged on a complaint made at 1:36 p.m. Friday by Charter Communications, 1209 N.

HA continued from other side

- Heard from board member Mark Wagoner that the press box has a new window in, compliments of Silver Brothers Construction.
- Learned from Darrell Brown that the district received a \$19,080 lighting grant. Money will be used to change out more lighting in all buildings.

Rossville continued from other side

better than none at all. "I don't think we want to be without it with the situation the way it is now," she said.

In related discussion, residents who do not allow access to meters for village utilities may be fined \$150, if a new ordinance is approved.

Residents have gone to lengths to keep employees from reading gas and water meters, including keeping dogs tied close to the meter and parking vehicles over the meters, Prillaman said.

Trustee Mark Catron suggested giving residents a verbal warning before issuing a citation but Prillaman asked "why? They know it has to be read."

The issue was referred to the gas committee.

In unrelated discussion, trustees said burn barrels will be included in items picked up during townwide cleanup June 10. Residents who are able are asked to put barrels in front of their homes to be picked up. Those who are unable to do so are asked to call the village office to make arrangements for barrels to be removed by June 14.

Trustees also:

- Moved forward on foreclosing on 113 Maple. If successful, a structure on the property will be demolished and the property sold. The vote was 4-1, with Gregory being the sole dissenter, saying the issue is "something I don't think we need to get into doing."
- Reappointed Cathy Brooks and Phyllis Bell to the

State St., Westville, about theft of services win the 600 block of West elm.

Senk was released on a notice to appear.

Obituaries

YOUNG—Oscar Emmett Young II, 87, of Cheneyville died at 9:05 a.m. Friday May 19, 2006 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial with military graveside rites by Hoopeston American Legion and VFW posts, will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 3-5 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

zoning board.

- Approved a \$250 donation to the Rossville American Legion for fireworks.
- Approved repaying \$249,189 in loans from the Tax Increment Financing fund back to the gas fund.
- Approved taking out a loan for a chipper and manlift at 5.5 percent.
- Discussed covenants for the Masengale subdivision that include mandating village gas and not having out-buildings. Trustee Dick Queen said one sale was lost because the potential owner wanted to install a geothermal system and that owners should be able to build sheds for tools and other uses. "Geothermal is the wave of the future," he said. "If you don't allow it, people will move somewhere else."

However, "we need customers," Prillaman said. "We're losing business."

Queen volunteered to speak with the Masengale family about changing the covenant.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 68. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 50. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 75, low 56.

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

Memorial Day volunteers needed

Hoopeston American Legion and VFW will place flags on the graves of former military members at Floral Hill Cemetery at 9 a.m. Tuesday. Anyone who would like to volunteer is invited. For more information, call Bob Duffin, 283-9241.

Memorial Day services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 29 at Floral Hill Cemetery. A free luncheon will be held at the American Legion, 502 E. Penn, following. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be at the McFerren Park Civic Center.

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The City of Hoopeston is seeking applications for the position of part-time Animal Control Officer. The person selected will be considered on-call around the clock and will be responsible for enforcing ordinances pertaining to animals within the city, issuing citations, handling stray animals, caging and releasing non-domesticated animals back into the wild, and testifying in Municipal Court when necessary.

The pay is based on a set amount per month as well as the numbers captured.

Qualified applicants must have a valid Illinois drivers license and must be able to pass a background check.

Applications may be picked up at the Hoopeston Police Station 24 hours a day and must be returned no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, May 26th.

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