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Signing in

Bud Warner, foreground, helps son Eugene Warner install a sign at the new Main Street Family Restaurant Sunday. The restaurant is accepting applications and is expected to open soon.

Township officials asked for big jump in fire protection fee

Grant Township officials have been asked for a hefty jump in what it pays for rural fire protection.

At the regular township board meeting Wednesday, Supervisor Bill Boose read a letter from Hoopeston Alderman Brandon Hamilton, city fire/ambulance committee chairman, asking the township to pay \$30,000 for fire protection in rural Grant Township, up from the agreed upon \$13,000 currently paid to the city.

In 1993, township and city officials signed a deal for the Hoopeston Fire Department to pay \$7,500 per year for fire protection. In 1998, the amount was raised to \$13,000 annually, where it has remained.

In his letter, Hamilton said the department would not have gone ahead with the purchase of a tanker truck had it known the township would not have contributed to the purchase.

However, Boose said fire representatives did not approach the board about paying for a tanker truck. Instead, the department asked for help in paying for a brush truck.

In February 2005, Fire Chief Greg Shipman and Todd Harris talked to trustees about the need for a truck with a foam system to extinguish field fires, a water tank and a pump large enough to draft water from ponds.

To approve an increase in the amount paid to the city, township officials said they would like to have exact figures on how many fire calls have been in the area outside of Hoopeston but in Grant Township, including how many were calls of vehicle fires on Rtes 1 and 9 outside Hoopeston city limits

In February 2005, Shipman said the department had responded to 141 calls in the preceding year but
See TOWNSHIP on other side

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Police News



A **63-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Friday that someone took a trailer hitch from his Ford truck in the 400 block of South Second Ave.

The man reported Saturday that he found the trailer hitch on his front porch.

A **40-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Friday that her 1995 white Chevrolet Corsica was taken from the 800 block of South Sixth St.

The car was found Friday afternoon in by the 15th

Obituaries

CORNELIUS - George "Junior" Arnold Cornelius, 77, of Hoopeston died at 5:54 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006 at home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery, Rankin. Visitation will be 10-11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Carle Hospice.

Township continued from other side

did not have a breakdown of the types of fires and their loca-tions.

Boose said the first the township heard of the increase was Hamilton's letter, dated Sept. 26. "I'm not opposed to talking about it but this is a little much," he said.

Trustees wondered why the fire department did not bill property owners for fires since most insurance includes payment for fire-fighting. "We're footing the bill for what (insurance companies) should be footing the bill," said Trustee Dave Ervin.

Another problem in paying an increase is that this year's budget is already done. A new budget will not be passed until March or April, 2007, Boose said.

Trustees requested that Boose ask Hamilton to attend the next meeting to discuss the issue. That meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8.

In unrelated discussion, Road Commissioner Gary Weinard said he is unwilling to accept rural Thompson Ave. until problems with its resurfacing are fixed.

A letter of intent was signed July 19 saying the township would take ownership of the road after it was resurfaced. However, Weinard said, resurfacing work was done poorly and he is not willing to take over the road

District Chicago Police Department and impounded. The owner was notified.

No tickets were issued in an accident at 2:08 p.m. Friday at 1016 W. Orange.

Police said Gerald D. Minick of Hoopeston, in a 1997 Mercury Grand Marquis, was westbound when he crossed the center line and struck a 1996 Plymouth Voyager driven by Sharon K. Baker, also of Hoopeston.

The impact pushed Baker's vehicle backwards into the ditch on the north side of the road.

Minor injuries were reported and were treated at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Minick was at fault for improper lane usage.

A **17-year-old** man reported at 3:27 p.m. Friday that an incident of disorderly conduct occurred at Third St. and Lincoln.

A **17-year-old** man reported Saturday that someone scratched his vehicle while it was parked at Hoopeston Area High School

until the rough surface is fixed. "We're probably going to have a little bit of a controversy with the county," he told the board.

Calling the road wavy, Weinard a thin layer of BAM will have to be put down. "We don't have many oil and chip roads in the township that are as bad as that," he said.

In other business, trustees:

- Approved a \$25 donation to the Hoopeston Jaycees for their Halloween party.

- Heard from Boose that the economic development steering committee, made up of city and civic leaders, would like a township representative on the board. Dale Lithgow agreed to represent the township.

- Tabled a request from CRIS Senior Services for a \$500 donation

Weather



Chance of showers today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 59, low 47. Tomorrow, high 65, low 50.

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

Briefly

Business deals with repairs

Due to sidewalk repairs, Harris Insurance Agency, 221 S. Market, Hoopeston, will be available by appointment or phone only on Monday. Please call 283-5031 for assistance or visit the Milford or Rossville offices.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Prayer meeting

Teachers, school board members and the community are invited to attend an Hour of Prayer meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at First Church of God on East Orange St. This is a time to pray for teachers and board members to have open communication and agree to terms of a contract.

Alley cleanup

Weather permitting, Hoopeston Street and Alley Department will start alley cleanup on Monday, Oct. 16. This is for yard waste only.

Meetings

Rossville Village Board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office.

Rossville-Alvin School Board, 7 p.m. Monday, grade school library.

Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.

Hoopeston Area School Board, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, high school library.

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