

THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Shurfresh Spread 3 lb. tub88¢ Limit 1 with \$10 additional purchase
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Shurfine Tomato Juice 46 oz btl68¢
Limit 1 with \$10 additional purchase
Shurfine Tuna In Water, 6.18 oz can3/\$1
Limit 1 with \$10 additional purchase
Shurfine Mayonnaise 32 oz jar98¢
Limit 1 with \$10 additional purchase
Shurfine Salad Dressing 32 oz jar98¢
Limit 1 with \$10 additional purchase
Shurfine Relish 16 oz jar5/\$5
Seedless Grapes Red or White, imported 99¢
1 lb. bag, Classic Iceberg
<i>O</i> ,
Dole Garden Salad 89¢
Dole Garden Salad89¢
3 lb bag, all purpose, medium
3 lb bag, all purpose, medium Yellow Onions99¢
3 lb bag, all purpose, medium Yellow Onions99¢ GoldKist Farms Young/n Tender
3 lb bag, all purpose, medium Yellow Onions99¢ GoldKist Farms Young/n Tender Bone-In Chicken Breast99¢/lb.
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Make tracks to local model train show Saturday, Sunday

A local model railroading group hopes area residents will make tracks to its model train show this weekend.

The show will be held from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday at the Hoopeston Civic Center, said Lenard Compton.

Compton and Chad Thomas, organizers of the newlyformed East Central Illinois Model Railroaders group are putting on the event, which is sponsored by the Hoopeston Jaycees.

The show will feature seven dealers willing to buy, sell and trade, along with train layouts, including a Gscale model of Thomas the Train and Clarabel, compliments of D & N Hobbies of Effingham, Compton said. The company has also provided two door prizes for the event.

This is the second time Compton has been involved with a model train show in Hoopeston and he hopes he can continue the tradition annually as a way to get youngsters involved in the hobby.

Compton admits he's always been interested in trains. In his younger years, he would go to the old train tower and watch John Hardcastle tap out Morse code to engineers. "I've loved them all my life," he said. Even being stuck in his car by slow-moving trains doesn't phase him. "I count the cars."

It was not until about eight years ago that Compton caught the model train bug. He and his grandson, Zeb Schultz, of Defiance, Mo., put together a small set in Compton's basement. Thumbing through a magazine,

See TRAIN on other side

Landlords steamed by proposed delinquent utility ordinance

ROSSVILLE—Village landlords were steamed by a proposed ordinance that would make them liable for utility bills not paid by their tenants.

Landlords appeared at Monday night's village board meeting to ask trustees to reconsider the planned ordinance.

Under the proposal, property owners would be responsible for unpaid utility bills left by tenants. Currently, said Clerk Chris Pearson, the village has about \$10,000 in overdue gas bills. Of that, \$4,800 is owed by tenants.

However, landlords said it is not their business to collect for the village.

Richard Birkey, landlord and former trustee, told the board that "just because some other villages have passed this doesn't mean we have to.

"You're in the business of selling, you're in the business of collecting," he said, adding a previous board opted not to impose unpaid utility bills on landlords.

Another landlord, Don Garrison, asked if the board was "trying to shut down the whole town," citing the 47 empty houses and 14 vacant storefronts.

Landlord Gene Roach told trustees he is an investor in Rossville and that since 1994, he has added about \$300,000 to the tax base by building new rental proper-

The ordinance, which was combined with a proposed ordinance that would allow the village to shut off utilities to suspected drug houses until they were properly cleaned was "a knee-jerk reaction to an emotionally charged issue and that is drugs," Roach said. However, by combining the two, the ordinance was "destined to failure" because of "two distinctly different issues."

Roach wondered if utility funds were in trouble. "Are we scratching for pennies so they don't go in the red," he asked.

See ORDINANCE on other side

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Train continued from other side

Zeb saw a setup that included a bridge and mountains. "He said 'Grandpa, that's what we need," Compton said, adding that he promised the boy he would create it. "I kept my word to him," he said. "It took me eight years to do it."

Compton's setup is pre-1970 and includes cabooses on trains. The landscape includes a town, mountains, deer and even a cemetery with tiny wooden crosses.

Zeb is now a teenager and is not as interested in trains as he was but the hobby has moved on to Compton and his great-grandson. "He really loves it."

Hoopeston youngsters who have seen his setup also enjoy it. "Those kids, they're eyes get so big," Compton said. "I want to jump up and down for joy."

It is the children for whom the train show is geared, to pass the love of model railroading on to them.

And it is children who will benefit from event pro-

ceeds. Children 12 and younger will be admitted free; for everyone else, there is a \$1 admission charge. Profits from the show will be donated to the Jaycees for the group's children's Christmas activities. In future years, Compton hopes the show grows enough to allow for a scholarship fund to be established for a needy child, as well as playground equipment for McFerren Park. "It's built up around kids to benefit children," he said.

— Briefly

War Memorial benefit

A benefit to raise money for a Hoopeston Iraq War Memorial will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Hoopeston VFW, 428 E. Orange. The event will feature live music from area bands.

Admission is \$3 per person at the door.

Ordinance continued from other side

Mayor Terry Prillaman said the funds are not in danger but that something needed to be done to make sure tenants pay utility bills.

Currently, the minimum deposit for gas customers is \$100. The amount is raised for those with bad credit. Prillaman said.

"That's not enough," Roach countered. "If somebody can't come up with \$400 or \$500 to put down on the gas, they're living paycheck to paycheck and I don't want to rent to them."

In a compromise move, trustees agreed to scrap the ordinance and instead charge a minimum deposit of 1.5 times the highest gas bill in the preceding 12 months. Prillaman said after the meeting that the deposit amount could be higher than that depending on a tenant's credit rating.

The solution was fine with Roach, "I don't have a problem if that's what it takes to keep you out of my pocket," he said.

Prillaman urged landlords not to give new tenants the keys to rental property until deposits have been paid "because service will stay in your name until hell freezes over."

The drug-related part of the ordinance was tabled for review by the village attorney.

In other business, the board held a public hearing to

vacate alleys and part of a street on the former Kaufman Grain elevator property.

The elevator sold to JBS United of Royal, which will operate it as a feeder station for a Royal ethanol plant, Prillaman said.

No action was taken on the issue because a vote required three-fourths of trustees be present and two of the six - Dick Queen and Bunny Tweedy - were unavailable Monday night.

In other action, the board:

- Approved a blanket parade route ordinance for the Illinois Department of Transportation.
- Approved setbacks for corner properties which were not included in a setback ordinance passed recently.
- Approved a "dangerous buildings" ordinance for structures that threaten the life, health or safety of residents by their inadequate maintenance, obsolescence, fire hazards, abandonment or other conditions.
- Passed the Motor Fuel Tax ordinance.

Weather



Partly cloudy today. High 47. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 28. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 44, low 31.

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

Tunes-N-Transit

DJ & Karaoke Every Friday 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Watch for upcoming contest!

Pla-Mor Lanes





VFW

428 W. Orange, Hoopeston All-You-Can-Eat

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, February 24 6 a.m.-12 p.m.

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