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Township residents request action on rural rail crossing

Some Grant Township residents want township officials to take on the CSX Railroad.

John Hathaway, Tom Schmitz and Geraldine Durocher attended Tuesday afternoon's Grant Township Board of Trustees meeting to discuss the condition of the crossing on County Road 3650.

Hathaway, who said he talked to Township Supervisor Bill Boose and Road Commissioner Gary Weinard in mid-December, told the board he has also talked to attorney George Cuonzo, who represented Milford in its efforts to get a crossing repaired.

After Cuonzo filed legal papers for the village, "the railroad miraculously appeared and the crossings were fixed," Hathaway said, adding the attorney is "apparently able to get things done."

Township attorney Bill Nelson said he talked with Cuonzo, who told him he did not file a suit against the railroad but did file a formal complaint with the Illinois Commerce Commission. Nelson said Cuonzo reported to him that the CSX did the work specified in the complaint but no more and that the Milford crossing was still not fixed satisfactorily. When Milford officials complained, CSX officials "basically

told them to file another complaint," Nelson said.

Boose has been in contact with ICC representative Henry Humphries, who said the ICC can do little because the CSX is taking some action towards fixing crossings on its line from South Chicago to Evansville, Ind.. The railroad plans to begin using hot patch to repair crossings on April 15. Work on local crossings is expected to be completed by mid-May.

"Maybe I don't want to wait that long," Hathaway said, adding if something is not done, he, represented by Cuonzo, would file a complaint with the ICC and bill the township for the cost.

Nelson responded that township officials are under no obligation to pay such a bill.

"That's when the fun will start," Hathaway shot back.

Weinard said that while he sympathizes with residents, the railroad right-of-way is "like a sovereign country" and, as private property, cannot be fixed by anyone but the railroad.

Grant Township has four crossings - three south of

See TOWNSHIP on other side

United Community Fund to hold barstool golf fundraiser

A hole in one at one of Hoopeston's watering holes could get you a flashy button.

Local bars are partnering with the United Community Fund of Grant Township for Rolling Rock's Barstool Golf.

The event will be held Saturday, March 17 at Pla-Mor Lanes, BJ's Pump, Second Chance, Ruby Nell's, Hoopeston American Legion, Deano's on Main and Hoopeston VFW.

Foursomes may sign up at any of the bars for a \$60

entry fee. Proceeds go to the Community Fund, which helps fund local youth sports groups and social service agencies such as the Hoopeston Multi Agency and Grant Township Food Cupboard.

The winning foursome will receive four \$100 gift certificates towards the Budweiser prize catalog. A hole in one gets the winner a flashy button and there will be sampling opportunities of new products.

It's a lot of fun for a great cause and besides what else are you going to do in the middle of March?

Is your computer crashing regularly, or worse, won't boot up at all? Is it making strange noises that keep you up at night with worry? Don't worry—Computer Works will come to your aid. We service all makes and models of computers, will do upgrades, or can custom build a new one, to fit your needs. New & Used products available. Bring your computer to Computer Works, 303B E Main, Hoopeston, for a free estimate, or give Teresa a call at 217-283-9552. Cooketech wireless also available.



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5-8 p.m. Friday
American Legion

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Also serving ribs
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Carry-outs available 283-6312

SPAGHETTI

DINNER

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Friday, March 16

4:30-7 p.m.

Meat Sauce and Meatless Sauce available

Tickets:

\$6 per person

Discount for Children

Carry-Outs \$6.50

(does not include beverage)



every Thursday 7 p.m.

Hoopeston American Legion

502 E. Penn



MARCH MADNESS at HUBBARD TRAIL

Friday, March 16, 2007

Illini vs. Virginia Tech 6 p.m.
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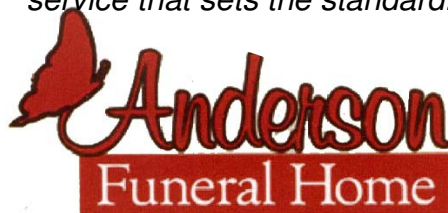
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Briefly

Tiny Tots

"It's So Nice to Have a Wolf Around House" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots at the Hoopeston Public Library. Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

90th Birthday Open House

Nellie Woodard will celebrate her 90th birthday with an open house from 2-4 p.m. Saturday at the Methodist Church fellowship hall. Cards are appreciated but please, no gifts.

Conservation Club meeting

North Fork Conservation Club will hold a member-

Obituaries

MOTT - Oma M. Mott, 82, of Hoopeston died at 12:45 p.m. Monday, March 12, 2007 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. There will be no visitation. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston, was in charge of arrangements.

Township continued from other side

Hoopeston and one north - that are "all in a state of flux," Weinard said.

The crossing on County Road 3650, the first road north of Rossville, was closed when it was dug out, approximately six weeks ago, he said.

Grant is not the only township experiencing problems with rail crossings, Weinard said. Some in Lovejoy and South Ross are also in bad shape.

Trustee Dale Lithgow suggested that if the township were to file a complaint, it should be done on all crossings that need repairs. That suggestion was turned into a motion to file a complaint at Boose's discretion and unanimously passed by the board.

Resident Robert Prather cautioned the board to proceed with caution, taking their time to make sure the complaint is filed with all necessary information so that repairs are done completely.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Heard from Boose that a tentative budget should be ready for the April 10 meeting. That meeting, at 4

ship meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at the club. All members are invited.

Youth Softball signups

Signups for Hoopeston Area Youth Softball will be noon-2 p.m. Saturdays March 24 and 31 and 1-3 p.m. Sundays, March 25 and April 1 at Hoopeston City Hall. Questions may be directed to 283-9540 or email info@hoopestonareasoftware.com. New year, new officers, new philosophy.

Police News



A **43-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 12:14 p.m. Tuesday that someone tried to break into her garage and also took a CD player from a vehicle parked there.

The incident occurred in the 600 block of East Lincoln.

A **54-year-old** man reported Tuesday that someone kicked in a door at his home in the 500 block of West Chestnut. Nothing was reported missing.

The incident occurred between 5 a.m. March 7 and 6:30 p.m. March 13.

p.m., will be followed at 6 p.m. by the township annual meeting.

- Heard from Weinard that stockpiles of gravel and crushed stone have started to come in for summer repair work. Bids on seal coating are expected in within 10 days. The cost will determine which, if any, roads will be seal-coated this year.

- Heard from Assessor Susie Sheppard that senior freeze forms are in.

- Heard from Sheppard that someone has requested that a loved one be buried in Red Top Cemetery when the loved one dies. There have been no burials in the cemetery for many years, she said.

Weather



Chance of showers today. High 49. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 29. Tomorrow, cloudy. High 43, low 28.

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



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Classifieds

HELP WANTED

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3 BR, 1.5 baths, 2 car garage. Available March 13. \$475. (217) 304-2145

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