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**Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>**

**Wednesday, August 13, 2008**

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**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942** **[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)**

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## Rossville fire district residents to vote on station referendum

ROSSVILLE—Rossville Area Fire Protection District board members hope to be guest speakers at as many civic groups as possible, getting the word out on a referendum to help pay for the district's new fire station.

At its meeting Monday night, the board unanimously approved putting the issue to voters on the November ballot. The question will ask "Shall the Rossville Fire Protection District, Vermilion County, Illinois, provide permanent financing for the construction and equipping of a new fire station and issues its bonds in the amount of \$850,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?"

To get the funding, more than half of the more than 1,100 residents of the fire district must approve the referendum.

If it is successful, the referendum will add \$1.26 per acre on farm ground and \$118 per year to the owner of a home with a fair market value of \$100,000.

The board hopes to raise \$850,000 with a 20-year payback period.

In the planning stage for years, the new fire station, located on the village's north side, became a reality recently. The board had hoped to fund part of the project through a special tax levy, a move which was encour-

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aged by the board's former legal counsel.

Recently, however, the board learned that state law does not allow that funding approach.

Speaking before the Rossville Community Organization Thursday, board President Dean Grimes said the board learned after construction that a levy is not allowable. "(Construction) wasn't something we could stop," he said. "It was done."

Grimes told the RCO that the fire district has the money to make the first payment of about \$60,000. "It will make our budget very, very, very tight," he said. "We can make it this year but we can't do it for 20 years."

The board approved hiring First Midstate Investment Bankers of Bloomington to handle the bond issue if it is approved by voters. The board also hired Chapman & Cutler, a Chicago law firm, to help the district pass the referendum and market the bonds.

The fire district board is looking at other ways of getting funding for the construction project, including applying for grants and taking action against its former attorney.

However, Grimes said, getting grants is difficult and a suit against the lawyer could take years to settle, bringing the board back to the need for a bond issue.

If the referendum fails, a second referendum will probably be placed on the April ballot. If that fails, the board will look at other options, including the "worst, worst, worst case scenario of dissolving the district and selling the equipment."

To increase their chance of success, board members will ask to meet with civic groups in the village to present their case prior to the November election.

Information on the issue will also be available at an open house from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 13. The district

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## Police News



**Two men were** arrested after a citizen reported a suspicious vehicle at 11:36 p.m. Sunday at Silver Bros., 105 E. Washington.

Kenneth W. Murray, 27, of Hoopeston and William Figueroa Jr., 21, of Chicago, were charged with criminal trespass to property.

Additionally, Murray was wanted on a Lake County warrant for failure to appear.

Both were issued notices to appear on the trespass charge. Murray was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville on the warrant.

**Robert A. Milburn Jr.**, 27, of Hoopeston turned himself in to police at 10:20 a.m. Monday. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear, Milburn was released on \$300 bond.

A **23-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 11:24 a.m. Monday that someone took stereo equipment from his vehicle while it was in the 400 block of North Eighth Ave.

**Eric W. Ramos**, 20, of Hoopeston turned himself in to police on Monday in connection with an incident Sunday in the 400 block of North Eighth Ave. He was

charged with aggravated battery on a complaint from a 21-year-old Hoopeston man who alleged Ramos confronted him and struck him in the face.

Ramos was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, in lieu of bond.

**Two drivers were** ticketed after an accident at 2:25 p.m. Monday at Market and McNeil.

Police said Irma D. Mendiola, 21, of Hoopeston, in a 2001 Buick Century, was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and disobeying a stop sign.

Also cited was Austin L. Rhodes, 33, in a 2003 Ford Expedition. He was ticketed for disobeying a stop sign.

**Richard C. Strawser III**, 21, of Hoopeston was arrested at 2:26 a.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of North Ninth Ave., after a 40-year-old man reported allegedly seeing Strawser in his car. When police arrived, Strawser allegedly fled and was caught after a foot chase.

Strawser was charged with burglary to auto, criminal damage to property, possession of burglary tools and resisting arrest. He was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

A **19-year-old** man reported at 5:55 a.m. Tuesday that

## Obituaries

**HALLEY** - Thelma G. Halley, 95, of Rankin died at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Unreal service was at 2 p.m. Sunday at Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin. Burial was in Rankin Union Cemetery. Visitation was 5-7 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to family wishes.

**HENRY** - Helen M. Henry, 86, of Hoopeston, formerly of Milford, died at 3:20 a.m. Monday, Aug. 11, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nurs-

ing Home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Visitation will be one hour before service at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to First Christian Church, Milford, or Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home.

## Weather



Chance of storms today. High 80. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 59. Tomorrow, sunny. High 80, low 61.

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



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a car stereo and speakers were taken from his vehicle in the 400 block of East Seminary.

A **19-year-old** man reported at 8:23 a.m. Tuesday that speakers and an amplifier were taken from his vehicle in the 700 block of North Sixth St. A rear window to the vehicle was broken.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start in Wellington is seeking applications for Teachers, Bus Drivers and Bus Aides. Teachers and Bus Drivers starting wage is \$11.79 and bus aides starting wage is \$7.75. Teachers will need a minimum of 6 hours in early education. Bilingual preferred but not required. Send resume to PO Box 136 Wellington, IL 60973 or faxed to 815-984-4500. Call Wellington office 815-984-3706 for any questions. Positions are opened until filled. EOE

Applications being taken at the Multi Agency for Teen Reach. Qualifications: 22 years old+, high school diploma or GED, 5 years experience with children; meal preparation. Resume and references required by Aug. 15, 2008. Send to 206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942. No phone calls, please!

### PETS

Free to good home: 2 male kittens. Call (217) 283-7592.

### RUMMAGE SALES

Church Yard Sale, Saturday, Aug 16, 8am-3pm Community Church of the Nazarene, 402 E Honeywell, Hoopeston. Dinnerware, toys, lots of miscellaneous. No early sales.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 302 N. Market, Hoopeston (parking lot). Sat., 8-1. Household items, clothing, window air conditioners. Something for everyone!

622 W. Washington Hoopeston 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Boys clothes size 0-9 months and older boy clothes. Girl Clothes, Men and Women's clothing. Baby bed, High chair, and swing. Lots of items priced to sell. Something for everyone.

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