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Wednesday, August 3, 2016
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Mandated consolidation will hang up Hoopeston 911

A consolidation of 911 centers will take Hoopeston out of the loop of dispatching emergency services.

Members of the city's finance, police and fire committees met with police, fire and dispatch personnel last week to discuss terms from Vermilion County Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) terminating Hoopeston as a backup of the county 911 answering system.

Hoopeston has served as the Vermilion County backup for decades, but as a cost-saving measure, Illinois is consolidating the number of 911 answering points and placing the 911 system under the newly-created Office of Statewide 911 Administrator within the Illinois State Police.

As of January 1, the administrator is responsible for developing, implementing and overseeing a uniform 911 standard for all areas of the state outside of municipalities with more than 500,000 residents.

Vermilion County and Champaign County's MET-CAD have formed a 911 alliance, which will leave Hoopeston responsible for dispatching only local non-emergency calls, said Mayor Bill Crusinberry at the July 26 meeting.

County officials would like to switch the system over at 10 a.m. August 15, but after reviewing guidelines by which Hoopeston fire, dispatch and police are to operate, city officials want to meet with ETSB representatives to voice concerns over some points. "We need to make sure all the gaps are covered," said Ald. Brandon Hamilton, police committee chairman.

For example, one guideline prohibits Hoopeston from dispatching emergency calls that come in on the police department's main number, 283-5196. The guideline states that the Hoopeston dispatcher is to transfer the call to the Vermilion County 911 system, which will then dispatch needed emergency services.

Hoopeston 911 coordinator Tom Bookwalter said transferring calls to the county locks up police department phone system for hours, an issue that must be fixed before the guidelines become effective.

Another problem created by the guidelines will be caused when Hoopeston officers responding to an emergency will be expected to communicate on the Vermilion County frequency. "Our portables will not reach Vermilion County," said Sgt. Jim DeWitt, acting Hoopeston Police Department chief.

There are solutions to the problem, such as installing repeaters, but the question then becomes will the county ETSB pay for those changes.

One change that will take some getting used for police is monitoring both the city and county frequencies, DeWitt said. Currently, Hoopeston officers monitor only the Hoopeston frequency and are notified if they need to switch to the county frequency.

While most of the changes will affect emergency responders, one that will be felt by the community is slower response times.

Hoopeston officials had hoped to meet with ETSB representatives this week but a date for such a meeting has not yet been announced.

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Briefly

Baptist church to have free concert

First Baptist Church of Hoopeston, 323 E. Seminary, will hold a free concert with The Maranatha Singers. The event will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday and is open to the public.

HMA dance

Yesterday's Country will perform at a senior dance Saturday at the Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave.

Food and snacks will be available at 6 p.m., followed by the dance from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person.

Bring a covered dish to share, a dessert or snack to share with friends!

Bowling meetings

Sunday Night Mixed League will meet at 6 p.m. Sun-

From the Blotter

Jordan M. Davis-Ervin, 25, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 5:51 a.m. Monday at Third St. and East Penn. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear/operating an uninsured motor vehicle, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today. High 87. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 70. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 90, low 73.

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day, Aug. 7 at Fast Lanes. All interested bowlers are welcome.

Classifieds

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Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), a world leader in agricultural processing, is currently seeking candidates for **seasonal positions** as elevator workers or scale clerks at our Hoopeston, IL and Tab, IN locations. **Elevator workers** will unload grain, perform clean-up work, perform some minor maintenance and assist in other areas of grain handling. **Scale clerks** will weigh trucks, grade grain, perform data entry, answer phones and file documents. Both positions require the flexibility to work overtime and weekends; as well as the ability to meet any physical requirements of the positions which may include: prolonged periods of standing and sitting, working in confined spaces and from heights, bending, kneeling, climbing stairs and ladders, working in a variety of conditions (heat, cold, dust, etc.), moving up to 50 pounds and the ability to wear a respirator. Successful completion of ADM's pre-employment process is required, which may include a drug/alcohol screen, medical history, background check and other job related functional evaluations. Please apply online at www.adm.com/careers. ADM is an EOE for minorities, females, protected veterans and individuals with a disability.

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Ravens Livestock and Farms Inc. is looking for a local driver. Must have CDL and farm background. Contact (217) 304-1523.

RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: 815 E. Penn. Fri. & Sat. 8-11. Moving sale. Lots of furniture: TVs, desks, dressers, tables, solid mahogany dining set, misc. household, toys.

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