

**Hoopeston VFW**  
65th Annual



**Saturday, Nov. 19**  
8 p.m.-close  
50/50 & Turkey Walk  
Entertainment by  
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**Saturday:** Prime Rib and Ribeyes  
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Fri. 4-close, Sat. 12-close Sun. 12-4

### WEDNESDAY

#### 8-9-10 Pin Doubles Tournament

Open to everyone

Several items will be given away, including  
**2 Turkeys!**

#### Closed Thanksgiving Day

Reopen Friday for Open Bowling 12-close  
Pit Stop will reopen at 4:30 p.m. Friday

Email:  
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# Just the Facts

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348  
Lourdine Florek, Owner

**Friday, November 18, 2016**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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## Citizens again question city council about dispatch returning

They were fewer in number than at the last meeting but a group of Hoopeston citizens came Tuesday to criticize the Hoopeston City Council for its lack of action in restoring local emergency dispatching.

During the committee reports portion of the meeting, Ald. Brandon Hamilton, police committee chairman, reminded residents that the 283-5196 number is for administrative calls only, until further discussion with county and state officials, and that in emergencies, the proper procedure for years has been to call 911. He said 283-5196 dispatch would remain with Vermilion County "because that's the current contract" and that a change would not be made without "the state blessing it."

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Robin Lawson, co-owner of Global Fashions, T&L Lawn Care and Mr. B's Café, said she thought everyone was working hard on fixing the situation but said the important thing was getting the 283-5196 back to local dispatching. "Let's get that back right away," she said.

Some residents said they would dial the local number on their cell phones to connect to Hoopeston dispatch, rather than call 911, which has been answered by Vermilion County dispatch for many years.

That prompted Hamilton to reiterate that the local num-

ber has always been for administrative calls, such as reporting a cat in a tree or other nonemergency. He added that officers on patrol can also report everything from a cat in a tree to a suspicious person via their car radios.

Resident Eve Dillman said "If I have someone crap on my lawn, which has happened, I'm not going to call 911," she said. "What if I see something that's not an emergency?"

Hamilton said that discussions are going on for the issue to be refined and that the committee will look at what steps are needed to get dispatching back to the city.

"What really needs to be changed is direct dispatch of our fire and police," said Toby Brown, of rural Rossville and a volunteer for Rossville Fire Department. Brown said 911 is a good system, but not perfect, and there can be delays.

Longer response times is the opposite of what 911 was created to be. "The whole purpose of 911 was to shorten response times," Brown said. "This is not shortening time. When it lengthens the time it takes, whether it's two minutes or five minutes...minutes matter."

"You've taken a great system and replaced it with an OK system and that's not OK," he said. "We're used to

See DISPATCH on other side

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Hoopeston Area Women's Club  
**TACO NIGHT**

Wednesday, Nov. 23  
4:30-8 p.m.

Hoopeston American Legion  
Carryouts available•Raffle•Bake Sale

Tacos \$2 ea. or 3 for \$5. Corn or flour shells  
Nachos, Nachos Supreme & more available  
Proceeds benefit area youth

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## American Legion

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## **Dispatch** continued from other side

what we've had," Brown said.

Hamilton said response times are a priority and that Sheriff Pat Hartshorn and Jerry Davis, attorney for the county Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) have agreed to meet with Hooperston officials but a date and time for that meeting has not been worked out.

Brown said local officials do not have to convince those at the county level that returning dispatch to Hooperston is necessary. "If you want it to happen, make it happen," he said.

Residents reiterated scenarios that were detailed at the November 1 meeting of slow response times and demanded the council act quickly, prompting Ald. Lourdine Florek to respond.

"At the last meeting, I said I was the only member of the police committee there and what I heard was a lot of "you didn't do your due diligence,"" she said. "Now I'm hearing "you need to act now. We need to do our due diligence this time so we don't make a bad decision."

Asked directly if he wanted local dispatch returned, Hamilton said he did and that "we are taking steps to restore everything that we can that we've lost."

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### **Freedom stands**

The morning of November 11<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of being part of the American Legion/VFW Color Guard to participate in a Veteran's Day program organized by Hooperston Area Schools. School administrators are to be commended for their efforts that were witnessed by the entire school population and a large number of veterans and citizens. The band and vocal performances were beyond great, the most outstanding program I have been part of.

### **Briefly**

#### **Milford church sets revival**

Milford Nazarene Church will hold a revival November 18-20, at 6 p.m. nightly and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The Rev. Tom McCain will be the guest speaker. Special music will be provided by Flo Gooden, Curley Collins and Earl Kroll Jr.

#### **HAHS to hold blood drive**

Hooperston Area High School Student Council will

**Rossville Family Restaurant**  
715 S. Chicago  
*is serving Thanksgiving Dinner*  
Thursday, Nov 24 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Oven roasted turkey with all the sides, plus dessert  
Reservations & carry out orders accepted (217) 748-6201

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## **Letters to the Editor**

American Legion Post 384 provided chili and potato soup to the community at no cost. The quality of the food offered was absolutely the best.

The point is this. With all the distraught feelings and concern about the outcome of the Presidential Election it is clear that our bright future is not totally dependent on what happens in Washington. We as a nation share pride in our country and enjoy the freedom made possible by the sacrifices of many, in and out of the military.

As I looked over the hundreds of faces during the pres-

entation of our National Anthem and the entire group reciting the Pledge Of Allegiance it became clear that regardless of how each of us felt about the outcome of the election we still share this feeling of togetherness.

Our future is yet ours to build. Standing together we continue to build for brighter tomorrows. That truly is the freedom we celebrate and no one election can take it away.

Marty Parsons  
Hooperston

### **At the library**

Upcoming events at Hooperston Public Library include: **Tree Climbers**, a free genealogy group, will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19. The group is open to beginning or experienced genealogists.

This month, bring your toughest "brick wall" questions to get help from other participants.

**Tech Day** from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19. Get free assistance with your "smart" device, such as iPad, Kindle or other tablet.

**Maniac Mondays**, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday. This month, kids in grades 3-6 will try some fun experiments and activities with sound and make a musical instrument to take home.

**Best Sellers Book Club**, 6:30 p.m. Monday. Discussion title is "A Man Called Ove." New members are welcome to join this monthly group.

For information, call the library, (217) 283-6711.

### **From the Blotter**

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 9:47 a.m. Wednesday at West Thompson and North Dixie Hwy. Police said Scott A. Offill, of Champaign, in a 2009 Ford F150, was transporting items in the back of his truck when one blew out and hit the windshield of a 1983 Chevrolet Impala driven by Brian C. Suiter, of Hooperston.

### **Weather**

Breezy, partly sunny, then showers likely today. High 67. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 34. Tomorrow, clearing, breezy. High 40, low 24. Sunday, sunny. High 40, low 24.

### **Classifieds**

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