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## Just the Facts



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## Retirement to bring new opportunities to long-time banker

If Phyllis Freeland forgets how long it is until her retirement starts, all she has to do is look over her shoulder.

Freeland, who will retire Dec. 30 after more than 22 years in banking, received a clock that, for about two months now, has counted down the days, hours, minutes and seconds left in her career.

"Isn't it fun," Freeland asked, looking at the clock in her office in the Hoopeston branch of MainSource Bank.

Freeland was hired at the former Citizens Federal bank 22 and a half years ago as a part-time teller. "I never achieved that position," she said.

While hired as a teller, while she was training, the bank's four supervisors left, changing Freeland's career plans from teller to supervisor.

During her career, Freeland has seen the bank's name change to Gibson Federal, Land of Lincoln, Household Bank, Kankakee Federal, Capstone and now MainSource.

She's seen other changes, too, in banking regulations and increased use of technology of which, she admitted, she is not fond. "Everything's done with the computer," she said. "I don't need that responsibility. I need to be in the backyard worrying about begonias and yelling at my children because they're not raising the grandkids right," she said, smiling.



Phyllis Freeland, left, stands in front of a clock counting down to her retirement as manager of the Hoopeston MainSource Bank branch. The clock also indicates the time until Donna Crose, right, fills the position.

Freeland is looking forward to retirement. She talked of her early married days, then the years spent raising children. "Now we go back to being spouses again," she said of her time with husband, Tony.

The couple would like to sell the house that was big enough for their large family but too large for the two of them. Then, Freeland said, she would like to travel to "off the road places. I'd like to plant an azalea and a hibiscus and never have to worry about them freezing."

Freeland's retirement will be celebrated with an open **See BANKER on other side**



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## Banker continued from other side

house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at MainSource Bank, 323 E. Main. Those who attend will not only get to say goodbye to Freeland, who also celebrates her birthday Dec. 30, but hello to the new branch manager, Donna Crose.

Crose graduated from Hoopeston East Lynn High School, then worked at Wellington State Bank. For the past 18 years, she has worked at First Midwest Bank in Danville. Starting as a teller, Crose served as assistant in the loan department, loan officer, oversaw new accounts, lending and for more than a decade, has been a manager, including vice president of retail lending and, most recently, cash manager. "Like Phyllis, I've worn many hats," Crose said. "There hasn't been much that I haven't seen."

Crose started at MainSource Nov. 23, learning the ins

**Open House  
to commemorate  
Phyllis Freeland's  
retirement  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 30  
MainSource Bank  
323 E. Main, Hoopeston**

and outs from Freeland. She is enjoying not only her new job, but the chance to become more involved in

Hoopeston. "It's been a long time since I've had the opportunity to be so involved in the community," she said, adding she has already been recruited for the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

"I feel very fortunate that I know a lot of our client base. I know a lot of the staff. They're wonderful. If I don't know something, I have three people in a 20-foot radius who can help me."

In the past few weeks, Crose said she has learned much from Freeland and said their beliefs and management styles - and those of the MainSource management - mesh. "It's a very exciting time for me to come back."

The women said the transition has been a smooth one and each has good words to say about the other.

"She's going to be good for the bank, good with the customers," Freeland said of Crose.

"(Freeland) deserves her retirement," Crose said. "People are going to miss her. I have big shoes to fill. I have some huge shoes to fill."

## Weather



Chance of rain today. High 43. Tonight, chance of rain or snow. Low 31. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 46, low 30.

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

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