

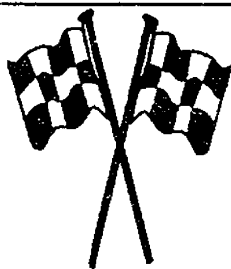
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Lourdine Osborne
editor

just the facts

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Thursday, May 19, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Downsizing effort to affect few FMC employees

Workers at Hoopeston's FMC plant will again be affected by downsizing.

One thousand positions at FMC plants around the world will be eliminated, according to Jackie Nickerson, human resources manager at the Hoopeston plant.

Cuts in support staff, including finance, human resources, data processing and other support functions, were announced late last month, she said.

The announcement will have "minimal impact" locally, but Nickerson is unsure exactly how many people will be out of work. "We have relatively few of those people here," she said, adding 20 employees serve in support functions at the Hoopeston plant.

Employees in those jobs will be offered volun-

tary separation packages. The number of workers eventually let go will "depend on the results of (the separation package) program," she said.

A final figure on the number of employees leaving is not expected until some time this summer.

The reduction in force is part of a corporate plan to increase FMC's ability to compete in a global economy. "I think in the long run, it will be a very positive step," Nickerson said, adding that there will be some unpleasant steps first.

This is not the first downsizing effort the company has taken this year. In February, FMC announced it would sell its palletizer line, which includes part of Hoopeston's operations.

The company employs about 23,000 people worldwide, Nickerson said.

John Greer, junior high to have new principals next year

One principal is being transferred and another hired in Hoopeston Area schools.

The Hoopeston Area school board Thursday night approved transferring Larry Hill, currently junior high principal, to John Greer principal, effective in August.

Hill, who became junior high principal in 1991, replaces Chalmers Flint, who is retiring.

The board also approved hiring John Burkey as junior high principal, also effective in August.

Burkey, 27, came to Hoopeston Area in 1990 as a history teacher after graduating with a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Illinois. He continued his education the past four years, and in the spring of this year completed his Master's and general administrative at the U of I.

Hill received his bachelor's in education from Illinois State University in 1971. He earned a Master's degree in education from Northern Illinois University in 1977 and received a certificate of advanced study from ISU in 1990.

In other personnel-related action, the board hired four teachers: Lori Eells, duties to be assigned; Brian Hodge, junior high social science, seventh grade boys basketball; Valerie Swinger, high school special education; and Shawn Swartzentruber, high school industrial arts, assistant high school wrestling.

Three resignations were accepted: Leona York, business office secretary; Cindy Masengale dean of students/administrative assistant and Julie Toncray, high school math teacher.

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- Platter w/Bacon or Sausage/Scrambled Eggs
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Routes 1 and 9, Hoopeston



Classifieds

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Following fire trucks could become costly pasttime

Following fire trucks could become an expensive proposition in Hoopeston.

The city council Tuesday night granted a policy that will allow officers to ticket spectators at fires if they get in the way of local firemen or drive over outstretched fire hoses.

Once ticketed, violators face fines of \$50 to \$500, if convicted.

The decision to issue citations came as a last resort, according to Drew Allen, chairman of the city's fire committee. Officials have issued public warnings concerning spectators. That was followed last month by a decision not to sound the fire siren.

Allen said both efforts were unsuccessful at keeping away gawkers. "I don't know if they've all got scanners or what," he said.

Firemen have better things to do at fire scenes than look out for passersby, Allen said. "These men are out here trying to do a job - a dangerous job - and they don't need to be saddled with traffic control," he said. "Frankly, we've just had enough of it. If they want to watch a fire, they better watch it from a distance."

The new policy is effective immediately.

In other business, the council discussed, but took no action on a policy concerning charitable donations.

The suggested policy was developed after council member Susan Comstock requested a donation for a local flood relief effort.

If the policy is passed as presented, it will eliminate all charitable contributions, but will allow use of city equipment, employees and other assets.

Court dispositions

Joseph Cannon, Hoopeston, total 83 hours public service work, converted back to fine, continued to June 2 for payment.

Allen Shumate, Rankin, 155 hours public service work, 133 hours completed. continued to June 2 for completion.

Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said reasons for the policy include the fact that citizens may privately support charities, that it is not the role of government to decide which causes are worthy of donations and because philanthropic needs have traditionally been met by private giving.

The policy would not affect events co-sponsored by the city, such as the effort to bring industry to Hoopeston or the recent University of Illinois architecture program.

In other action, the council:

♦ approved May 28 as opening day for the swimming pool. It will be a "free swim" day, and season passes purchased then will be discounted by 20 percent.

♦ approved spending nearly \$17,000 for lights and new sidewalks at the new city hall even though the money is not in the new budget.

Goodwine said finance committee members should meet with architects to finalize any other changes before the appropriations ordinance is passed.

♦ approved a contractual agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation to purchase less than one acre of ground at the northeast and southeast corners of Route 1 and Main Street.

The land will eventually be landscaped to make an attractive entrance to the community and the downtown area, said Mayor Bob Ault.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
May 17, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Ziifji Ballazhi, Hoopeston.

Weather

Sunny today. High around 70. Tonight, clear. Low in the low to mid 40s. Tomorrow, sunny and warmer. High near 76, low near 46.

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Thursday Trivia/Friday Feast

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FREE Friday lunch.

Today's question: What date appeared on the
May 17 edition of Just the Facts?

Tomorrow's lunch provided by: Ole Country Inn

Last week's winner: Carol Flint