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**just the facts**

Lourdine Osborne  
 editor

Susan Comstock  
 ad manager

**Tuesday, June 14, 1994**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
 (217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

## Front Street project to undergo improvements

There is still hope for residents of Front Street. City officials are looking at ways to improve water drainage in the area, according to Mayor Bob Ault.

"We still have some work to do," Ault said. Included in that work is replacing a broken drainage tile behind Stokely, USA and a drain pipe which runs under the railroad switch track.

The drainage tile behind the Stokely plant will be fixed first. Ault said. "I hope we're able to do it within the next 60 days," he said.

Replacing the drainage pipe will take longer. Engineers will examine the pipe within the next two to three weeks. Ault said, with the actual replacement done perhaps later this year.

Problems were discussed at the June 7 city council meeting.

Alderman Drew Allen, employed by Stokely, told the council that water run-off is "taking out the foundation of the Stokely warehouse."

Engineer Jay Dingee of Sodeman & Associates explained that the drainage area can only hold water in one-third of the area because of a gas main going through the property and because two-thirds of the basin, the area closest to Main Street, is "too high to do much good."

Also, Dingee told the council that the tile just north of the railroad tracks suffered a "massive-type failure. That becomes an expensive problem if you have to go under the railroad tracks," he said. "It's not in a place you would choose to have a problem."

The city spent \$104,818 on the Front Street project, including the land purchase, easement, legal fees, construction and engineering costs.

Dingee said the project was started for two reasons: beautification of the area and to "hold a little water."

Ault said the basin, in a natural, low-lying area, "will still be helpful for water" once improvements are complete.

The project, completed last year, was severely tested during a 100-year storm in April.

Several Front Street residents lost most or all of their possessions when their homes were flooded during the storm.

### Front Street project:

### From pot patch to basin

Before it became a detention basin, the Front Street project was covered with what police agencies call "green, leafy material": marijuana.

City officials told the railroad that "if they sold it a reasonable price, we would clean up the marijuana," said Mayor Bob Ault.

The city paid \$3,000 for the ground, and then, under the supervision of the Vermilion Metropolitan Enforcement Group (V-MEG), removed and disposed of the marijuana.

V-MEG is a drug enforcement group made up of Vermilion County Sheriff's police, Illinois State police and Danville police.

Beside illegal drugs, the area also included dilapidated housing. Ault said. "It needed to be cleaned up."

The project includes not only the detention basin, but a drainage ditch running along the tracks to take water from the area.

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(Hear the roar June 20)

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TODAY

with your ad!

## Hospital close to having new physician come on board

Officials at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital announced that they are close to having a new physician join the medical staff.

Administrator Rod Burkett made the announcement at the Community Involvement Committee meeting Monday.

The new doctor's office will be in the hospital. Burkett said, unlike current physicians who have their offices away from the facility.

The purpose in locating the doctor in the hospital is to have him or her cover medical situations during the evening hours.

In other news, Burkett said no date has been set to begin the hospital expansion project, but some pre-construction work has been started and bids are being sought for the work.

The expansion will include an independent living complex for senior citizens and 25 additional nursing home beds.

In other announcements at Monday's meeting:

♦ FMC is "into its typical seasonal lay-off," said company representative Cecelia Dixon.

The company is doing something new this year with workers on the harvester lines, she added. Two trips to northern Illinois, one today and one next week, have been scheduled to allow FMC workers to see their products in action.

♦ Marti Kaeb, representing the Center for Children's Services, said foster parents are desperately

needed in the Hoopeston area. The Presbyterian Church will host a foster parenting information night next month, then host training classes in August or September to provide more local foster parents, she said.

♦ Megan Longfellow, Miss Hoopeston, announced new activities for the Sweetcorn Festival, including a tennis tournament, car stereo competition, petting zoo, and return of the tractor pulls.

Longfellow listed some activities she will participate in this summer, including speaking to children at the library and attending eight county fairs. "I'm really excited and happy to be Miss Hoopeston," Longfellow told the group.

Sue Reed, of the Hoopeston Jaycees, said the group is installing new bleachers at McFerrer Park. The group is also co-sponsoring the annual rodeo with the Chamber of Commerce and is getting ready for the Sweetcorn Festival.

## In the Hospital



### Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

June 9, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Robert Eades, Hoopeston.

June 10, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Jodie McMillan, Hoopeston; Goldie Kirby, Paxton.

June 11, 1994

Admitted: Justin Rhodes, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Clair Dewey, Rossville.

June 12, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Justin Rhodes, Hoopeston.

## Weather



Partly sunny, hot and humid today. High in the low to mid 90s. Tonight, fair. Low in the low 70s. Tomorrow, scattered thunderstorms likely. High near 94, low near 74.



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