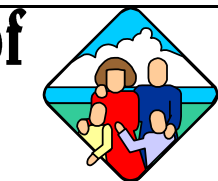


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Tuesday, Sept. 17, 1996

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

## Merchants agree to help fund downtown sidewalk replacement

A plan to replace sidewalks in the 200 block of East Main St. will get the financial blessing of local business owners.

Eleven downtown business owners met Monday night with Alderman Mark Drollinger, chairman of the city's street/alley committee, to discuss replacing the sidewalk on the south side of the street.

Most of the 11 showed support for donating \$500 to \$1,000 toward the project, estimated to cost about \$20,000.

Although Drollinger had originally said funds would come from Motor Fuel Tax money, Mayor Bob Ault asked for help from merchants.

Ault explained the city's residential sidewalk program, where material costs are shared between the city and homeowners. "What we'd like to say is you merchants do your share and maybe we can do more," Ault said. "We'd like to have 100 percent participation."

"We'd like you to participate, but we won't hold

you to it," Drollinger added.

Tom Sheridan, owner of Sheridan's TV & Appliances, was the first to sign on. "I, for one, would be more than happy to spend \$1,000 on this," he said.

On an initial show of hands, Sheridan was the only one to offer to contribute. However, by the end of the meeting, most merchants raised their hands in willingness to donate.

The project calls for the sidewalk to be narrowed to 10 feet from the existing 15 feet. Because of the pitch of the street, cutting back the sidewalk will raise the curbs 2 to 3 inches, said local contractor Dan Silver.

Work will be done in conjunction with the water/sewer department, to reconnect hookups and with Central Illinois Public Service, which must relocate light poles.

With the sidewalk narrowed, Main Street can be

**See SIDEWALK on other side**

## Rossville-Alvin school board approves two-year teacher contract

ROSSVILLE—A new two-year contract for Rossville-Alvin teachers and support personnel will require some belt-tightening by the district.

"The first year's no problem, but the second year, we're going to have to be very efficient," said Superintendent Phil Smith. "It can be done, but we're going to have to be very conservative."

The financial crunch will be caused by increased costs coupled with decreasing state aid, he said. "State aid is going to be flat," he said. "The only way we won't have to be careful is if a bunch of students move into the district. Then we'd be fine."

The 1996-97 and 1997-98 contract, approved at a

special school board meeting Monday, raises the base salary of teachers from \$18,000 to \$18,800 and provides a four percent increase for support staff, including custodians, bus drivers and teachers.

Other contract highlights include:

☐reimbursing teachers \$15 per college credit hour for continuing education. The second year, the amount will be raised to \$30 per hour.

Credits gained through workshops where registration fees are paid by the district do not apply.

☐a one percent increase in extra-curricular stipends, based on the current pay level.

**See CONTRACT on other side**

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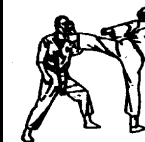
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## Police News



**Daniel O'Neal**, Lot 28 Baer's Trailer Court, reported Monday that someone broke the driver's side window of his International tractor and took a CB radio. An antenna was damaged.

The truck was parked at RBT Trucking, 900 W. Orange, when the damage occurred.

**No tickets or injuries** were reported in an accident at 8:05 a.m. Monday at East Washington and South Market.

Debra L. Nosler, 637 E. Thompson, was at the stop

### ***Sidewalk*** continued from other side

widened by 5 feet, said street superintendent Dave Knake. The wider street will provide more safety for vehicles backing from parking spaces, he said.

Parking concerns were also addressed. A handicapped parking spot now at the east end of Main St. will be moved to the west end.

Also, a suggestion to turn a vacant lot on the north

sign in her 1991 Chevrolet van when she was hit by a 1986 Ford driven by Jeffrey D. Tetzloff, 421 E. Honeywell, Apt. 3-10.

**No tickets or injuries** were reported in an accident at 11:55 a.m. Monday at West Penn and South First Ave.

Julie A. Mullen, 214 Henderson, Rossville, in a 1990 Oldsmobile, stopped at the stop sign on First Ave., then pulled out and did not see a 1985 Buick driven by Lulu Compton, 317 W. Washington.

side of the street into a parking lot will be tried temporarily. The lot will be used for store owners and employee parking to encourage business people not to park in front of their stores.

Roger Ball, owner of Weber Drugs, praised the city for its efforts. "We've invested in the downtown and I'm glad to see you are, too," he said.

### ***Contract*** continued from other side

☐increasing the number of sick days that can be accumulated from 200 to 206 the first year of the contract and 212 next year.

☐adding a third shift custodian and implementing a shift differential for the position.

☐eliminating the groundskeeper position, putting

those duties under the jurisdiction of the custodian.

☐reducing the probationary period for support staff from 90 to 45 days.

The contract, is a good one, said Bob Ray, chief negotiator for the school board. "We put money into it, but it was in areas where we needed it," he said.



## In the Hospital



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**

**Sept. 12, 1996**

**Admitted:** Patricia Boyer and Jessica Merrill, Hoopeston.

**Discharged:** none.

**Sept. 13, 1996**

**Admitted:** Linda Evans, Joyce Whiteman and Theodore Morris, all of Hoopeston.

**Discharged:** Harold Johnson and Monika Holt, Hoopeston.

**Sept. 14, 1996**

**Admitted:** none.

**Discharged:** none.

**Sept. 15, 1996**

**Admitted:** none.

**Discharged:** none.

## Weather



Partly sunny, warmer today. High in the mid 70s. Tonight, clearing. Low in the low 50s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 75, low near 54.

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