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## Just the Facts®

Phone/Fax  
(217) 283-9348

**Wednesday, April 8, 1998**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 <http://lverm.rurilnet.org/~lflorek>**

## Residents asked to perform spring cleaning on properties

Hoopeston residents are being asked to clean up before they have to pay up when ticketed for nuisance violations.

At Tuesday's city council meeting, Alderperson Susan Comstock presented a list of 53 properties in the city with violations for such things as junk cars, debris, abandoned buildings and no house numbers.

Comstock has also received complaints about vehicles blocking alleys and parked on parkways; garbage at curbside more than 12 hours before routine pick-up; and dog issues, including barking and stench.

"I'm not saying we need to do anything about it right now because it's springtime and people are cleaning up and fixing up," Comstock said, adding if owners do not clean up the properties, citations will be issued. "There's really absolutely no excuse for some of the stuff that's out there," she said.

## Schools, police must work together to solve juvenile crime: chief

Crimes involving youngsters might be avoided with better cooperation between school systems and police departments, according to Hoopeston's top law enforcement official.

"In our school systems today - all over the United States, not just here in Hoopeston - they never let police get involved until there's a serious problem," said Chief Carl Valentine at Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Valentine talked about recent school incidents, ranging from the shooting in Jonesboro, Ark., to those happening in Hoopeston.

One local incident involved adults asking police to test a substance believed to be marijuana that belonged to a fifth grade student. When tests proved the substance was

In unrelated business, the council:

❑learned the sewer treatment expansion is nearly done and final payment should be made soon. With the expansion completed, Alderman Drew Allen, chairman of the water/sewer committee, said a clarifier, part of the existing equipment, broke recently. Repairs are expected to cost about \$15,000.

❑approved purchasing a mower for the cemetery department from Olympic Hardware for \$6,927. Money will come from the new budget effective May 1.

❑took no action on three bids for perpetual care urns because of problems with samples made from specifications. Bidders will be provided with materials and asked to resubmit samples, said Comstock, cemetery committee chair.

❑approved paying nearly \$7,000 in legal fees to the Chronicle from the paper's suit against the city.

marijuana, the adult did not want police involved. "They weren't going to tell the law enforcement official the (student's) name," he said. Through investigation, police learned the child's name and that she planned to sell the drug to another student.

School officials gave the student a five-day suspension, but police are "vigorously looking into it and we're making progress," he said.

Although Valentine hesitated saying the incident occurred in Hoopeston, city council member Susan Comstock continued questioning Valentine until he confirmed the incident happened locally. "Why do you keep trying to hide it," she asked. "The point is it happened in Hoopeston, this is where we are and we're concerned

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hyacinths, tulips, jonquils, azaleas, cyclamen,  
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and other Spring blooms.

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## Have a Heart - Learn CPR

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CPR classes will be held at 6 p.m. April 14 & 16 at FMC, a fundraiser for Relay For Life, a team event to fight cancer. Classes are \$15. A portion will be donated to Relay for Life. Call Katie at (217) 283-8486 between 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for an appointment.

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## DANCE

Saturday, April 11  
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See CRIME on other side

## Crime continued from other side

about it," she said.

Some of the 16 people attending said they were "flabbergasted" by the incident. "The way we were raised and what's going on now are completely different things," one woman said. "There doesn't seem to be a lot of parenting."

Another resident said the problem stems from the legal system, which considers spanking child abuse. "When they took prayer out of the schools and stopped paddling, everything went downhill," another woman said.

Mayor Bob Ault agreed. "Until the paddle goes back into he school and the home and God goes back in the home and the school, this is going to continue," he said.

"I don't want to be a warrior here, but if I see a problem or a potential problem, as a law enforcement officer, we need to look into it, to do something about it," Valentine said.

"All the schools, all over, have a tendency to sweep things under the rug," he said. This causes a two-fold problem, he said. First, problems worsen, and second, adults often profit from having youngsters commit burglaries and sell drugs.

Valentine said he understands why school

districts try to solve problems in-house. First, school officials are concerned about confidentiality, but "we're not going to put in publication who the juvenile is," he said.

Second, "it's hard for schools to say 'gee parents, we might have a problem here and we might need your help,'" he said. However, "it's time to get these things

## Arkansas shooting hits home for chief

The recent shooting in Jonesboro, Ark., hit home for Hoopeston's police chief.

Chief Carl Valentine lived in Jonesboro for 10 years before coming to Hoopeston. The town of about 50,000 is "kind of a laid-back city. They don't have a whole lot of violent crime," he said.

Talking to police investigating the crime, "it seems like it was a matter of getting even," he said, adding the 11- and 13-year-olds charged in the crime treated victims like ducks in a carnival shooting gallery.

"It's very hard for me to believe, and probably for any of us to believe, that they didn't know what they were doing," Valentine said, explaining how the alleged shooters stole a van, took weapons and dressed in camouflage clothes before opening fire on classmates.

"Could they really understand what they were doing," he asked. At the time they did, but I think after some time has passed, they really didn't know what they were doing."

Valentine said the youngsters told others they planned to kill someone but school officials did not notify police. Better interaction between the two may have kept the situation from happening, he said. "In my opinion, a lot of times schools are responsible," he said.



## Court Dispositions



**April 2: Esmerelda Cordova**, Hoopeston illegal

## Police News



A boy's 10-speed bicycle was found Tuesday morning at 606 W. Maple. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

## Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 11:09 a.m. Tuesday to a chimney fire at 615 N. Dixie Hwy. Police also responded to the call.

consumption; continued to May 7.

**Marvin Dobkins**, Hoopeston, noisy animals, pleaded guilty; \$65.

## Weather



Partly cloudy with a chance of showers today. High 63. Tonight, mostly cloudy, showers likely. Low 43. Tomorrow, cloudy. Chance of showers. High 53, low 38.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

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## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Two part-time positions available. Must be fast, friendly, dependable. Apply in person at Burger King, Routes 1 and 9, Hoopeston. No phone calls.

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start is accepting applications for Fiscal Coordinator through April 10, 1998. EOE.

Qualifications: Prefer Associates Degree in Accounting; experience in financial record-keeping; must have computer skills and knowledge; and a valid driver's license. Must be able to sit for several hours at a time; use calculator and telephone; ability to communicate both orally and in writing; ability to process and follow oral and written instructions; ability to lift boxes of files and forms.

Responsible for maintaining on computer accounts payable journal, cash disbursements journal, cash receipts journal, general journal, general ledger, preparing monthly expenditure reports, calculate payroll and applicable taxes, pay quarterly taxes, reconcile monthly bank statements; maintain invoice files according to funding sources, prepare financial reports to the Board of Directors and PPC; maintain complete and accurate inventory; assist in preparation of regular budget projections, contracts, funding proposals and cost analysis reports; participate in annual audit; order supplies and equipment; record in-kind documentation.

Send resume to Hoopeston Migrant Head Start, P.O. Box 136, Wellington, IL 60973.

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