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Wednesday, Aug. 5, 1998
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Hoopeston police chief resigns citing job stress, health

Job stress and declining health have forced Hoopeston police chief Carl Valentine to resign after 15 months on the job.

In an Aug. 3 letter to city officials, Valentine said his resignation, effective Sept. 4, is due to "the stress of the job (lately)" which has "taken a big bite out of my health."

Thanking Hoopeston residents for their support, Valentine said he hoped his tenure here "made Hoopeston a safer place to live and a police department that you are proud of."

Regarding the department, Valentine said it "as a team, has worked and solved a lot of crimes since I have been chief of police."

According to his letter, Valentine and wife will return to Arkansas where he will be head of security of some grade schools. The job change will be "less stressful for me," he said in the letter.

Paul Teegarden, chairman of the city's police commission, had no comment on Valentine's resignation, saying only "I guess we're going to have to start over" in a new search. Teegarden was not sure if a replacement would be found by Valentine's Sept. 14 departure date.

Mayor Bob Ault said he "really hated to see (Valentine resign). I thought things were going pretty decent," he said. "I thought he was doing a good job. I respected him in his job."

Valentine was named chief of police in April 1997, coming to Hoopeston from Brookland, Ark.

During his tenure, armed robberies of the Casey's General Store and Clark Station were solved. Valentine also worked with the Neighborhood Watch program and implemented changes in tracking cases handled.

His stay in Hoopeston was not without controversy.

In January, Valentine was investigated for inappropriately spending drug seizure money. He was cleared of wrongdoing and changes in handling the account were made.

Valentine said the investigation was prompted by employees disgruntled with scheduling changes he made.

Council accepts resignation, street work to begin next week

The Hoopeston city council, in a 7-1 vote, accepted police chief Carl Valentine's resignation.

"It is with reluctance that I give my report," said Alderman John Haughee, chairman of the city police committee, who then read Valentine's letter of resignation.

In discussion prior to voting on the resignation, Alderman Bill Goodwine asked what would happen if the council did not accept the resignation.

Haughee responded saying the council "should most certainly carry out (Valentine's) wishes."

Alderman Harold Cox voted against accepting the resignation, saying he did not understand "what's going on here. I didn't get (the resignation) until tonight."

In other business, Alderman Mark Drollinger announced the street project will begin next week on either Seminary or Fourth St. Work is expected to take slightly more than one week, weather permitting, he said.

Questioned whether garbage pick-up will be affected by work, Drollinger said he would contact Vermilion Waste about the matter.

Finally, Alderman Dave Borders said the city must seriously consider purchasing a new ambulance. One of the city's ambulances' brakes locked up Tuesday and had to be towed, he said.

Month long, Sunny day Rummage Sale
Today's additions: Placemats, candles, indoor/outdoor rugs, Christmas ornaments, wooden swans, potpourri, Crabtree & Evelyn room spray and carpet freshener.
Hardy hibiscus have arrived!
Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert
 702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 days

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Stop crime with Crimestoppers, police sergeant tells Neighborhood Watch members

Hoopeston residents should take better advantage of a recently-added crime-fighting program, said a Hoopeston police sergeant.

By using the local Crimestoppers line, residents can report crime information anonymously, and receive payment for their information, said Sgt. Danny Danner at Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Danner spoke to approximately 30 people at the meeting.

Crimestoppers "has worked for us and we're tickled to death," Danner said, adding the program was implemented earlier this year.

The Crimestoppers number, 283-4411, rings into the program's Vermilion County headquarters in Danville, Danner said. Callers will remain anonymous and will be

given an identification number. "They don't ask your name and address," he said. "They don't ask anything about you. They just ask what you can tell us."

Even receiving payment is done anonymously. Checks from the organization are made out to the identification number, are delivered anonymously and are cashed at a specific bank by a specific teller, he said.

Although "people will tell on people for a dollar," Danner said he looks at the program differently. "I look at it as you solving a crime," he said. "I don't look at it as you selling anything."

Crimestoppers payment rates range from \$1 to \$1,000, based on the value of the information provided, he said.

Another benefit of the program is that, because of the anonymity, those who call do not have to testify in court.

"People say they don't want to get involved because they don't want to go to court," he said. "Twenty-five years I've been going to court and believe me, I don't want to go to court, either. You don't have to."

Using the program more would reduce the amount of local crime. "You see more than we see, you hear more than we hear, you talk to more people than we do," he said.

Briefly

Bowling meeting

The Ladies Thursday Afternoon Bowling league will meet at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 13 at Ten Pin Alley. For more information, call Teresa Cox at 283-5195.

Seniors to meet

Rossville Area Senior citizens will meet at noon Monday for a potluck with blood pressures checked before. Seniors are invited to bring a covered dish and join.

Conditionings, practices set

Hoopeston Area schools have set conditioning and practice sessions for some sports. Soccer conditioning will be 6-8 p.m. Aug. 10-14 at Honeywell. High school volleyball practice will be 1-4 p.m. Aug. 17 and 2:30-5:30 p.m. Aug. 18. Cross country practice will begin at 6:30 a.m. Aug. 17 at the high school and golf practice will begin at 2 p.m. Aug. 17 in the band room.



Police News



A pair of ladies gold wire frame glasses was found Monday at Fourth St. and East Main. The owner may identify and claim them at the police station.

Joshua E. Brackmann, 16, of 505 E. Lincoln, was ticketed for failure to yield at a posted intersection following an accident at 7:29 p.m. Monday at East Penn and South Fourth.

Police said Brackmann, in a 1986 Toyota Camry, was northbound on North Fourth, looked both ways before entering the intersection, then saw a 1993 Hyundai driven by Yolanda Flores, 726 E. Seminary. Brackmann told police he tried to stop, but slid on the wet pavement and hit Flores' car, which was towed from the scene.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Aug. 3

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Pansy Poland.

Weather



Showers, thunderstorms likely today, tonight and tomorrow. Highs 83, lows 70.

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

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Temporary help. Pick up applications at Hoopeston Foods. Second shift. Start mid- to late August. \$6.50/hour. Applications must be in by Aug. 7. 210-216

Country Terrace Apartments seeking Personal Care Assistant/Housekeeper for nights and weekends. 32-40 hours. Training provided for the right candidate 18 years or older.

Applications available at Hoopeston Hospital registration desk or phone (217) 283-9215 for appointment. 216-219

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Grant Township will be taking sealed bids on the following items:

- 1.) Unique oak antique library table.
- 2.) Two (2) metal desks - one with return.
- 3.) Computer desk with work area.

All items can be seen at 525 S. Market Street, Hoopeston, IL from 9-12 and 1-3 Monday through Friday.

Bids will be opened August 10, 1998 at 4 p.m. at Grant Township, 525 S. Market St., Hoopeston, IL. The Township reserves the right to reject and or all bids. 209-219

2 year old female registered St. Bernard. Comes with large kennel and dog igloo. Great family dog. \$250. Pro Form Space Saver treadmill w/all the extras, \$400. (217) 339-2404. 216-219

RUMMAGE SALES

MOVING SALE: patio furniture, king size waterbed, dresser, large metal desk, recliner, drop leaf table, cedar chest, bikes, Queen Ann desk, organ, coffee tables, chest-style freezer, exercise equipment and more. Can be seen evenings. Call (217) 283-7001. Hoopeston. 215-219