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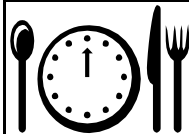
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Hoopeston, Rossville water users to get water quality info

How safe is the water in Hoopeston and Rossville?

Information answering that question will be sent to residents later this year.

The report will include 1998 information on contaminants in the water supply and other information, said Hoopeston water superintendent Steve Baker.

Baker, who contracts his services to Rossville, will compile a similar report for that village.

The report, to be sent in October, is part of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act, Baker said. A part of the law passed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last August mandates that information on the water source, water system and mandatory educational information be sent to consumers.

Local water is routinely tested for many substances, including arsenic, lead, barium, copper, iron, sodium and copper, and microbial and radioactive contaminants, Baker said.

While some substances have been found in Hoopeston

water, all are within levels deemed safe by the EPA.

The consumer confidence reports will include information on what substances were found in the preceding year and at what levels. Potential health effects of the substances will also be included.

Water from approximately 20 homes throughout the city is routinely tested for contaminants, Baker said. Homes chosen to be monitored must meet certain standards, including a lack of water softeners.

Sometimes, substances such as lead and copper are found in tested water but those substances come from plumbing in the homes, not the city's water mains, he said. To reduce the risk of ingesting lead or copper, Baker suggested residents allow their faucets to run briefly before taking a first drink of the day.

Baker hopes to get feedback from residents concerning what information is included in the report. "I'd like to know what people want to know about the water," he said.

Ceremonial groundbreaking to kick off hospital expansion

Hardhats and shovels will be the order of the day Tuesday when Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home officials hold a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony.

The event, beginning at 4 p.m., is being held for the facility's Building Project 2000.

And while ground is being turned, it will be several weeks before actual construction starts on the \$1.5 million medical center and \$2 million hospital renovation.

Bids for the medical center are expected to be let at the end of June, said Frank Caruso, facility chief executive officer. Construction will begin during the summer.

Hospital renovations must first be approved by the

Illinois Department of Public Health. Preliminary drawings have been sent to the department, which has responded with a first draft of questions, Caruso said. Each phase of the renovation project must be approved by the health department prior to construction.

When the project is approved by the department, bids will be let, probably in late summer, Caruso said.

While the project has not received official approval, Caruso does not foresee problems in getting the go-ahead. "The general response so far doesn't give us any area of concern," he said.

A \$9 million bond issue will pay for the new medical

See HOSPITAL on other side

All Clear!

Last official frost date

May 10

Not guaranteed

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Garden center full

Annuals, perennials, herbs,

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patio pots, urns

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Just the Facts

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Complete the puzzle and include your name, address and name of the business where you drop the completed puzzle off.

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Name:

Phone:

Drop-off Point:

Across

1. Sound

6. Endless straps

11. Diminish

12. Collapse: 2 words

13. Young seal

14. Criticized mercilessly

16. From

18. Exists

19. Inadequate

20. Cultivator

21. Called for

23. Disconcert

24. Viper

25. Halley's find

26. Waits

27. Military unit

28. Sympathized (with)

29. Roam about

30. 'The best you can get is an ____ break'

Down

1. Tasteless; boring

2. Vituperation

3. Track circuit

4. Tag player

5. Shielded

6. Expressed by barking

7. At any time

8. Shepherded

9. Palm lily

10. Dozes

12. Basketball player

15. Takes on cargo

17. 'Tootsies'

19. Infuriate

20. Wickerwork receptacle

22. First, as a voyage

23. 'Lest we ____!'

25. Transforms

26. Encampment

27. Transoceanic message

28. Look to be

Police News

Police are investigating

several reports of criminal damage to autos reported Sunday. Broken windows were reported to vehicles in the 600 block of South Second Ave., 600 block of East Young and 300 block of West Lincoln. Another vehicle in the 700 block of East Washington received unspecified damages.

A hit-and-run accident was reported to police at 4 p.m. Sunday in the 400 block of East Young. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 1982 Chevrolet owned by Lewis Simpson of Hoopeston.

Hospital continued from other side

center, hospital renovations, equipment and restructuring of old debt.

The Hoopeston city council on May 4 approved providing the bond issue at no financial risk to the city.

The entire building process is expected to take approximately two years.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 83. Tonight, chance of rain. Low 60. Tomorrow, rain likely. High 75, low 56.

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

31. Causes the downfall of

34. Vast age

35. Esophagus

36. Pronoun

37. Greek letter

38. Profession

39. Deadlock

40. Dumfounded

42. Close together

44. Purvey food

45. Business stimulators

29. Wielded the sceptor

31. More confident

32. Hawthorne's '___ Told Tales'

33. Looks for

35. Stare

38. 'Katze' or 'chat'

39. Sesame

41. Family member

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