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Hoopeston government, businesses ready for Y2K

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series on Y2K preparedness. Today's segment deals with local preparations made by government and business. Tomorrow's segment will feature tips on personal Y2K preparedness.

With the start of 2000 only two days away, Hoopeston seems to be ready for any aftermath of the Y2K computer glitch.

Experts have warned that some computers may not recognize the new year as 2000 but will see it as 1900, causing problems for computer-based aspects of society.

Locally, however, officials expect to see few problems.

In October, officials announced the city's water supply would be unaffected by Y2K. Alderman Drew Allen, chairman of the city's water/sewer committee, said then that while computers that generate reports needed to be updated, computers controlling the amounts of chemicals used in water and sewage treatment are not date sensitive and will not be affected by any Y2K problem.

Mayor Bob Ault reiterated Wednesday that Hoopeston should experience few problems. "The city is ready to go," he said. "Everything will be business as usual."

Standby generators at both the water plant and police

department will keep systems running in the event of any problems, Ault said. "It should be a pleasant weekend."

As for the police department, Chief Mark Drollinger said patrols will be the same as any other New Year's Eve weekend. While no problems are anticipated, Drollinger said he will remain in Hoopeston for the weekend.

At Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, contingency plans are in place, but are not expected to be needed, said Ruth Coffey, Chief Financial Officer.

Coffey, who oversaw Y2K plans at the hospital, said all equipment is compliant and that all managers will be on-site for New Year's Eve.

The hospital has planned for a year for Y2K and has spent \$5,000 to \$10,000 on testing and planning and another \$25,000 purchasing a new Y2K compliant lab component.

One piece of equipment did falter when tested for leap year but that problem will be fixed, Coffey said.

More than Y2K, the hospital is gearing up for "any additional business we get from 'the party of the century,'" she said.

Representatives of area financial institutions announced
See Y2K on other side

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New Year's Eve Party
Friday, Dec. 31
Southern Justice band
9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Glow bowling
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*Includes party favors, prizes, finger
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Thank You

The staff of

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Would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage during 1999. We wish you a happy, prosperous 2000 and look forward to serving your needs in the New Year.

We will close at noon on Friday, Dec. 31 and reopen at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 3.

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Y2K continued from other side

ced earlier this year that they expect no Y2K-related problems. That sentiment was repeated this week by Don Sherrill of Community Bank.

The bank's equipment has been "tested and retested," Sherrill said. "We're very confident that we're Y2K compliant.

Bank employees will run paper copies of all customer transactions before and after Jan. 1 to make sure there are no discrepancies.

The bank has a contingency plan should problems occur and will have extra cash reserves on hand for those

Obituaries

ELLIOT—Ralph Burton Elliot, 86, of Hoopeston, formerly of Henning, died at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 1999 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Sunset Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Danville. Burial with military rites will be in Potomac Cemetery. The family will receive friends for one hour before services Thursday.

**Hubbard Trail Country Club
Millennium
New Year's Eve Party**
A semi formal affair
Friday, Dec. 31
Starting at 7 p.m.
Tickets
\$60/couple, \$35/person
Available at the Club House
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday
No tickets sold at the door.
Includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner,
party favors, champagne,
breakfast at 1 a.m.
Dance to K.C. Express
beginning at 9 p.m.

who wish to have additional money. However, Sherrill suggested those who want extra funds on hand do so as cashier's checks, rather than checks, for safety reasons.

Few customers had stocked up on cash on Tuesday, Sherrill said. Some had withdrawn pocket money for the long weekend but "we really don't anticipate very many people taking out large sums," he said.

Just as people will have a ready supply of money, so, too, will there be a plentiful supply of needed medications.

Pharmacies typically see a surge of business at the end of each year as people hurry to meet their deductibles, said Mary Young, R Ph. of Weber Drugs.

Some customers have asked about the availability of drugs in the new year, but "I don't perceive any hoarding at all," she said. "We won't have a problem getting (medicines)."

Should Y2K cause heating problems, residents with

In the Hospital



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Dec. 28**

Admitted: Glenn Umbanhowar, Hoopeston; George Davis, East Lynn.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Mostly cloudy today and tonight. High 43, low 30. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 38, low 30.

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



New Year's Eve Party
DJ/Magical Lights & Sound
Friday 9 p.m.-?

Champagne at midnight, food & party favors

No cover charge

Put a little magic in your party!

Second Chance Saloon
102 N. Market, Hoopeston

kerosene heaters will find a ready source of kerosene at Neal Tire. And although an electric pump is usually used, manager Roger Burton said a hand pump is available to transfer kerosene to containers in a power failure.

However, Burton said, he expects no problems "other than people creating shortages. It's not going to be any different than the first of any other year."

Those looking for a generator for backup power will have to leave Hoopeston to find one. Olympic Hardware, which used to stock generators, has not done so for several years, said owner Chuck Pajor. There is no chance of the store getting any now. "Our main office said we had to order them six months ago," he said.

Police News



An employee of Shellmart, Rts. 1 and 9, reported at 3:21 a.m. Wednesday that someone took two packs of cigarettes without paying for them.

Wolfe Funeral Home

907 W. Main St.
Hoopeston, IL.
(217) 283-5088

Classifieds

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