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## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

Phone/Fax:  
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**Tuesday, August 20, 2002**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942**

**[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)**



Julie Mullen, left and Dave Ervin, discuss flood damage at Accent Health Care at 522 W. Orange.

## Area residents bailing out in the wake of monsoon

In 1994, 5.34 inches of rain fell on Hoopeston, causing flooding in many areas. Experts called it a 100-year flood.

Monday morning, Hoopeston residents awoke to find a storm had dumped 6.24 inches of rain on the city by 10 a.m., flooding many parts of the city.

Front Street residents were hit especially hard. Birdell Schwartz, who suffers from a medical condition, was evacuated from her home by rescue workers. Other residents chose to leave their homes and were taken to the Hoopeston Multi Agency until they could return and

begin the clean-up.

Front was not the only street with standing water. Residents of McCracken and Young at Third and Fourth Sts., the 800 block of East Lincoln and Washington and the 500 block of West Chestnut were among those who had water running up to, if not into, their homes. Accent Healthcare on Orange looked like an island with water surrounding it. Sandbags were visible against the front door of the business and owner Julie Mullen waded through the water to speak to Dave Ervin of Ervin Con-

See MONSOON on other side

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Theme: "Corn Patriot"

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A list of all participating yards will be published in Just the Facts prior to voting on Aug. 29

For more information, call 283-9348.



Monsoon continued from other side

struction.

The rain started at about 1 a.m. Loud claps of thunder woke many residents at 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. but most citizens didn't see the extent of the deluge until after daylight.

"I didn't realize it had rained that much until I got up and looked out and I thought "where did all this water come from," said Hoopeston weather watcher Audrey Mushrush.

Mayor Chalmers Flint said he was awakened by claps of thunder but went back to sleep. Shortly after 6 a.m., he was up for good following a call from police Chief Mark Drollinger who told Flint flooding throughout the city. That call was followed shortly by a call from a Chicago news station that had heard about the flooding.

All city departments were called into service early Monday. Street and alley workers barricaded flooded streets while water department employees helped residents get sump pumps and opened manholes to allow water to flow more quickly, Flint said. Police, fire and ambulance personnel assisted Front St. residents who wished to leave their homes.

The Danville office of the Red Cross was notified and sent a damage assessment team to Hoopeston. Although initial rumors had the entire city under water, only four sites were reported to the Red Cross office, said director Carolyn Schwabauer. Those sites included a duplex on Front, another on Penn, a home on Fifth St. with eight inches of water in the basement, she said.

By late morning, the rain had stopped and water had begun to recede, allowing many residents to begin the job of cleaning up their homes and yards.

Betty Schwartz, upper photo, stands in the doorway of Birdell Schwartz' home on Front St. while Jeremy Furrow and Sara Brown of Hoopeston help out friend Jeremy Lile by watching over a sump pump at his home in the 500 block of West Chestnut.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 82. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 65. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 88, low 68.

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

Some workers had to do their jobs despite the water. Angie Kelnhofer, a Hoopeston Post Office mail carrier, waded through water on Front St. to make a delivery at the Schwartz home. "It's a little chilly," she said of the water after returning to her vehicle.

The cost of cleanup will most likely have to be borne by residents, said Flint, who doubts state help will be forthcoming. "We couldn't get state assistance for the storm last year so I don't think we'll be able to get any for this rain," he said.

Classifieds

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