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 **Sidewalk/Spring Cleaning Sale**
 Sponsored by **Hoopeston Community Merchants**
Fri., April 16 Sat., April 17
 More than 18 participating merchants!
Look for bargains inside & out!
 We're Spring Cleaning and our old inventory will be on sale.
Our loss is your gain!

Lourdine Florek
 owner/publisher

Just the Facts®

Phone/Fax:
 (217) 283-9348

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Thursday, April 15, 2004

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

Merchants form new organization to help city businesses

Some Hoopeston merchants are banding together to solve some common problems.

Business people met Tuesday to discuss problems, concerns and possible solutions. Problems discussed included dogs in the downtown area, people blocking entryways to businesses, a lack of signs on Rtes. 1 and 9 directing potential shoppers to the downtown.

Dogs in the downtown are a major problem, according to merchants there. "If my eight-year-old can't ride her bike on Main St., then people shouldn't walk their dogs on Main St., said Kathleen Margevich of The Academy for the Performing Arts. "I'm going to do whatever I have to do to get dogs banned on Main St."

Margevich complained of dogs scaring people dropping off and picking up her students and other merchants said dog owners do not clean up dog feces left on the sidewalks in front of stores.

As for people gathering in front of businesses, Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger said violators may be charged with illegally blocking sidewalks or illegal trespassing. He urged merchants to call police when violations occur, sign complaints and testify in court.

Prompt notification to police is a key point, Drollinger said. "A half hour after the fact hurts us," he said. "Call when you see suspected activity."

The police department will have an increased presence in the business district, Drollinger said, adding that last weekend, three Vermilion County deputies were also in the city. "That show of force, along with our own officers, went a long way," he said.

The group also discussed the appearance of the downtown, including plywood-covered windows in buildings. Most of the group would like to see more uniformity in the downtown, whether it be putting up

flower baskets similar to those at the Lorraine Theatre, or having awnings or some other decorative touch that would pull the appearance of the buildings together.

Mayor Chalmers Flint agreed that signs are needed on Rtes. 1 and 9 to draw people to the downtown. A committee, including Ed Hubbard of Hoopeston Books & Gifts, Jean Minick of Lester's, and Lourdine Florek of Just the Facts, volunteered to work with the city's civic improvement committee, headed by Alderman Nancy Stipp, to come up with possible solutions.

Hubbard said one of the city's main problems is that "980% of Hoopeston talks down about Hoopeston. Hubbard praised the city's good people, highly-trained workers and good schools but said residents speak disparagingly about the city. When he opened his business, Hubbard said, people told him "I don't have a bat's chance in hell" of succeeding. "People should be proud of this city," he said.

Merchants discussed the need for a name and logo for the organization and agreed to have a city-wide contest. Entries may be taken to Unger's Jewelry and The Chronicle by May 3. The creator of the winning name and logo will receive \$50, donated by Ray Williams, owner of the former Der Schreiner building.

The group also elected officers, including Steve Unger of Unger's Jewelry, chairman; Joyce Allen, Allen Accounting/H&R Block, secretary; and Gary Shore, First Allied Securities and Jeff Keith, Hoopeston Books & Gifts, vice-chairs.

The group will meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Methodist Church, 403 E. Main. All Hoopeston business owners are invited to attend the meetings.

Me, too!

Street Sale April 16-17

Lots of items -

Special Fontina cheese

Perennials

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

Fish Fry

5-8 p.m. Friday

American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Also chicken breast & shrimp & grilled fish
Includes salad or slaw, baked beans, fries, roll.

Carry-outs available 283-6312



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HELLO
MY NAME IS

????????

Many Hoopeston merchants
are forming a new organization
and it needs a name & logo.
We're asking for your help!

The group will work towards
improving the appearance of the
downtown and, with city officials,
create signs for Rtes. 1 and 9 about
city businesses.


Entries may be dropped off at
Unger's Jewelry or the Chronicle
Deadline is May 3
\$50 prize
for the winning entry!

Briefly

Tiny Tots
"Corduroy" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is for children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Alley cleanup
Hoopeston alley cleanup will begin on or about April 12, weather permitting. Alley cleanup is for yard waste and tree limbs only.

Well-Baby clinic
The Hoopeston Well-Baby clinic will be held from 9-11 a.m. Thursday, April 15 at Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center, 801 E. Orange.
This is a free clinic for children from birth to school



Police News

Loretta M. Vanier, 28, of 407 N. Church, Ross-ville, was arrested at 7:50 p.m. Tuesday after a traffic stop at Fourth Ave. and West Washington.
Vanier was charged with residential burglary for an

Obituaries

BROWN - Phyllis E. Brown, 78, of Hoopeston died at 5:40 a.m. Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at Magnolia Wood Health Care Center, Watseka. Funeral services will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

BUILDING FOR SALE
315 E. Main St., Hoopeston, IL
Call (217) 283-7525

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VANITIES & MUCH MORE
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HOME FURNISHINGS**
315 E. MAIN ST., HOOPESTON, IL

age. Children will receive immunizations and a check-up by a physician.
For an appointment, call (217) 283-56454. Walk-ins are welcome. Free will donations are accepted.

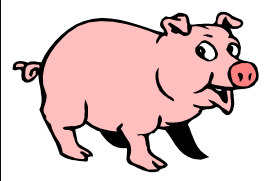
Kindergarten pre-registration
Maple School will hold kindergarten pre-registration at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 at the school, 500 S. Fourth St. Parents are asked to bring children's birth certificates, shot records and Social Security numbers.
The event is for parents only.

Preschool screening
A free preschool screening for all three-, four- and five-year-olds will be held Tuesday, April 27 at the First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange. The screening will determine each child's knowledge of general concept,

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 69. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 49. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 75, low 55.
For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service (217) 283-6221.

**Seasoned
Whole Hog Sausage**
\$2/lb.
**Hoopeston
American Legion**
502 E. Penn St.
Open Mon-Sat. at 3 P.M.



hearing and vision, speech and language skills and motor skills. Parents should bring their child's Social Security card, updated shot record and birth certificate.
To schedule and appointment, call 283-6668.

Slab to be open
The Hoopeston city slab will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. beginning April 17.

New Books at the Library

Fiction:
The Breathmaker by Alice Blanchard (mystery)
The Cat Who Went Up the Creek by Lilian Jackson Braun (large print)
The Private Life of the Cat Who--: tales of Koko and Yum Yum by Lilian Jackson Braun (large print)
Halos by Kristen Heitzman (inspirational)
Speake by Laurie Halse Anderson (young adult)

Classifieds

HOUSES FOR RENT
S. 4th St., Hoopeston. 2 bedroom home; nice basement, 2 car garage, refrig, range, washer, dryer, central AC. NO PETS! \$450/mo. with deposit. Call (217) 283-5107 or 283-7568 for application.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
Kimball Superstar 2 organ. Has 2 keyboards. (217) 283-7627.

RUMMAGE SALES
617 E. Penn, Hoopeston. Sat., April 17. 7-? Large sale - furniture, exercise equipment, books, clothing (all sizes), misc.
216 E. Gilbert, Rossville. Fri. & Sat., 8-?
716 W. Elm, Hoopeston. Moving sale Fri. 8-4, Sat. 8-1. Snow blowers, tables, exercise bike, computer, yard table w/ umbrella, 6 chairs, cushions, lots of good children's clothing & toys, misc.

SERVICES
Dog grooming by Jean. Gentle care. Pickup & delivery available. Also boarding. Gem-Mar Kennels. (217) 283-7426.

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