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**Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>** Lourdine Florek, owner  
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## New gift shop hopes to add upscale wines, tastings in city

The owner of a gift shop set to open next month hopes to offer upscale wines in her shop, if the Hoopeston City Council will approve.

Frances Ramirez plans to open the shop in her home immediately west of Hoopeston City Hall. She, along with Jerry Rosen of the Beverage Retailers Alliance of Illinois, were at Tuesday's meeting to ask permission for Ramirez to sell Illinois and other upscale wines and offer wine tasting events at the shop.

Rosen, adjunct professor at Roosevelt University, said only a small part of Ramirez' business would be devoted to the alcoholic beverages. "We don't want to sell Budweiser and Miller Lite," he said. "That's not what we're looking to do."

Asked by Alderman Bill Goodwine whether the business would be a wine shop with gifts or a gift shop with wines, Ramirez said it would be a gift shop with wines and would focus on other things, such as jewelry, dolls, gourmet teas and other items.

Wines are one of two areas in the alcoholic beverage industry that are expanding, Rosen told the council, adding the second is specialty beers from micro-breweries.

Rosen said he has been in the retail business since he worked in his family's business, starting when he was 11. He is executive director and legislative liaison for the Beverage Retailers Alliance of Illinois. He told the council he helped organize the Midwest International Wine Exposition a few years ago and is currently working on the Lincolnwood Wine Fest, which will be held June 9-10.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry told Ramirez that to grant her request, a new classification of liquor license would need to be created and approved by the council. He hopes to have a sample ordinance for the



Frances Ramirez discusses her plans for a gift shop at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

January 17 meeting for the council to review, with a vote possibly coming at the February 7 meeting.

In unrelated business, Crusinberry said recent construction in Hoopeston netted the city almost \$76,000 in building permit fees on \$15.6 million in projects, including \$1.4 million at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital; nearly \$1 million for a new grain bin at ADM; the new nursing home and almost \$400,000 for the Church of God expansion.

See WINES on other side

**The colors of Spring for you ~**  
 to replace the colors of Christmas  
 as the tree comes down  
**Blooming violet or daffodil plants \$3.98**  
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**Check out the post-Christmas Sale**  
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## Wines continued from other side

"It has been a good year for things," he said.

In other business, the council:

Heard from rural resident Jack Miller, who suggested that when the existing Country Terrace is vacated for a new building, the existing structure would make a good 20- to 30-room motel at a reduced cost than building a new one. "It'd be a shame for it to be destroyed when you need a motel," he said.

Crusinberry said building a motel has been put on hold because a developer has not been found. "The motel business is tough right now," he said, adding banks are not loaning money for new motels and "the response was poor" at a meeting last fall to attract local investors interested in backing a project.

Heard from Crusinberry that Hoopeston should be proud of marching band students who participated in Liberty Bowl activities in Memphis. The mayor said he heard comments while there about how well the young people conducted themselves and how well they represented the city.

## Police News



**The bike reported** stolen Monday by a 26-year-old Hoopeston man was recovered by the owner at 12:10 p.m. Tuesday in the 500 block of East Main. The theft was unfounded.

**No tickets** or injuries were reported in an accident at 2:12 p.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of North Market. Police said Mary Jane Lane, of Hoopeston, in a 2001 Chevrolet, backed from a driveway into a parked, unoccupied 2004 Chevrolet C3500 owned by the City of Hoopeston.

**Rory R. Kempen**, 25, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 8:58 p.m. Tuesday in the 200 block of East Main. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear, he was released on bond with a new court date.

## Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 47. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 34. Tomorrow, sunny. High 50, low 32.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

## New Books at the Library



### Fiction

Pie Town by Lynne Hinton (Large Print)

The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman

The Things We Cherished by Pam Jenoff (Large Print)

Bonnie by Iris Johansen

The Christmas Bargain by Sarita Leona (Large Print)

The Last Days of Pompeii by Edward Bulwer Lytton

1225 Christmas Tree Lane (Cedar Cove Series Book 12)  
by Debbie Macomber (Large Print)

City of Whispers by Marcia Muller (Mystery)

The Call by Yannick Murphy

The Christmas Wedding by James Patterson and Richard DiLallo

**New chiropractic office, in the Hoopeston area, is seeking team oriented, multi-tasking, energetic and dependable assistant. Computer experience a must along with customer service, and phone skills. Position involves assisting with therapy, x-rays, and patient care. Previous experience with insurance/collections desirable but not necessary. Attention to detail and a positive attitude are essential. Send resume to: Office Manager, 7 Boiling Springs Rd., Danville, IL 61832**

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Greene Galvanized Stairs is seeking qualified applicants for full-time Production and Packaging positions. Fabrication and/or order fulfillment experience is a plus. Send resume to PO Box 191, East Lynn IL 60932 or jobs@greenebinstairs.com.

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### WANTED

Copy of Mr. L's menu from the 1970s. Please contact Bertha Parsons, (217) 283-6876.

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