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Elaine and Brandon Tyler, holding sons Nate and Sam, are ready for their first Valentine's Day at The Flower Shop.

**Flower shop owners gear up for first Valentine's Day**

It's February and love is in the air. For more tangible signs of love than whiffs in the air, there's The Flower Shop, where owners Elaine and Brandon Tyler are readying for their first Valentine's Day since buying the former Flowers and Gifts by Molly Culbert. Since purchasing the shop in December, the Tylers have kept many of the things Molly's was famous for,

including Willow Tree figurines, 1800 thread count sheets (which are now in stock), ceramics, balloons, and, of course, flowers. There are new products, too, such as Naked Bee lotions and soaps; flameless candles; soy candles hand-poured in the USA; and Abdallah gourmet chocolates, plus dip and soup mixes.

See VALENTINE on other side

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**Hoopeston, IL 60942**  
**www.HeritageOfCare.com**

**Valentine** continued from other side

The Tylers have a large craft room in their home that they plan to move to The Flower Shop to create many new things, Elaine Tyler said. "I am obsessed with Pinterest and plan to bring a lot of new ideas to the store."

While gearing up for Valentines' Day, the Tylers are looking ahead to the gardening season. Coming soon will be ceramic and terra cotta pottery, potting soil, garden seed, house plants, perennials, a larger selection of bedding plants and more.

Also planned is a feature wall in the boutique to sell mostly local artists' works on consignment and using the greenhouse for special features, such as speakers from garden clubs.

The outside of the shop has been getting a facelift, with new signs, doors and a new window. The inside has been spruced up, too, combining vestiges of the old and the new.

One thing the Tylers didn't change is the employees. They took over the shop keeping on designers Darlene Van Pelt and Martha Zamarripa and clerks Amy Martinez and Bonnie Cramer and hiring Sara Furrow and

Trisha Curry.

Elaine Tyler, originally from Sheridan, Ind., ran a garden shop for three years in Indiana. The shop had gift items, bedding and vegetable plants and nursery stock. The shop's roses were grown on site, and also offered potted planters.

She met Brandon and moved to Hoopeston about 10 years ago. She worked at MainSource Bank, starting as a teller and worker her way up to branch manager.

"Ever since I moved here, Flowers and Gifts by Culbert was always one of my favorite places to visit to find decorations, flowers and gifts," Tyler said. "Brandon

and I have always wanted to have our own business and we always said if the store ever came up for sale, we would jump at the chance. We couldn't believe it when we heard about the sale and we sure enough jumped at the opportunity."

Brandon Tyler, a Hoopeston native, works at Teasdale Foods, heading to the shop after work and on weekends. The couple's children, Nate and Sam, are sometimes in charge of charming visitors to the shop.

The Flower Shop is located at 702 W. Main St., Hoopeston, and can be reached at (217) 283-5578. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.



**Letters to the Editor**



**Tax committee should listen to advice**

It was nice to hear that our City Council is going to have a committee to discuss and work on the upcoming 1% sales tax referendum. I hope Alderman Randy Carter seeks the advice and expertise of Hoopeston's city attorney to join this committee to make sure there are not any legal ways this city can protect itself from the costs associated with abandoned buildings and houses, without the citizens that live in this town, who pay taxes in this town, and vote in this town, to have to pay the costs of removing these abandoned buildings.

Maybe this city's attorney can research Illinois law cases regarding abandoned buildings to see if other cities in this state have had litigation of a similar nature, and how they addressed this issue. I am well aware that states have pulled back from supporting the law of eminent domain when it has to do with individual civil liberties, but there is a provision that most states do embrace when public safety is in jeopardy. Public safety is certainly an issue in Hoopeston's case.

As far as the issue of infrastructure ideas is concerned, don't you think we ought to save this 1% sales tax for our kids, grandkids, and great grandkids to pay for more serious infrastructure problems that they are certainly going to have to face down the road?

All of our alderman chair important committees on the

council, and each of them have expertise on the committee that they chair. Alderman Bill Goodwine has been on the finance committee for many years, and is this city's expert when it comes to Hoopeston money and budget. Don't you think we should listen to his advise when it comes to how this city spends or allocates money!

Tom Evans  
Hoopeston

Redecorating?

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**Classifieds**

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