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 Lourdine Florek, Owner

**Just the Facts**  
**Friday, December 28, 2018**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

# A look back at 2018

If there is a single word to sum up the top local stories of the year, it might be "improvement."

The City of Hoopeston and Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation (HRVF) were each busy in independent and joint efforts towards the goal.

Two HRVF projects - both started before this year - had distinctly different goals.

The first project is an ambitious economic development HRVF has worked on for about three years. It has included purchasing land to relocate First Farmers Bank and Trust in a new facility on Rt. 1; a motel/restaurant complex between Hoopeston Marathon and Hoopeston Chrysler; and a truck stop on the former Dick Jones, Inc., property and the building currently housing Subway, WHPO, Logos Unlimited and Professional Touch Massage Therapy.

Of the three projects, the new FFBT building is in the final stages before opening, set for January 7, 2019. FFBT plans to sell its Bank St. location and hopes another use will be found for its current office on Rt. 1.

HRVF purchased the Dick Jones property but has not yet purchased the other building, owned by Hooterville

Broadcasting.

Foundation members have asked city officials for help with the development project, starting with a request for \$3 million for infrastructure costs. However, at the November 14 joint review meeting for representatives of taxing bodies affected by the city's tax increment financing districts, a letter from Mayor Bill Crusinberry was read, stating costs for water, sewer and streets for the

See LOOK on other side

**Sandwiches & Sides**  
 5-8 p.m. Friday  
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**Filet Mignon & Lobster Tail Dinner**  
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**HARBOR**  
 Community Youth Center  
 907 W. Main, Hoopeston

**will be closed**  
**Dec. 21, 22, 27 & 28**  
**for Christmas & New Year's**





**New Year's Day Special**  
**Corned Beef & Cabbage**  
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*Wishing you and yours a blessed*  
**2019**  
*filled with good health, peace  
 and prosperity.*  
**Just the Facts will be printed  
 Thursday and Friday next week.**

**Look** continued from other side  
 truck stop are estimated at \$150,000 to \$200,000 and \$800,000 to \$1 million for the motel/restaurant.  
 Several aldermen have expressed hesitancy to give upfront money, preferring instead to reimburse eligible costs from the TIF program.  
 Regarding the city's TIF, a request to the General Assembly for a 12-year extension was passed and was waiting for Gov. Bruce Rauner's signature.  
 The foundation's second project involved purchasing homes throughout Hoopeston. These have become rental properties to provide income to HRVF. Homes were updated and redecorated and are in a range of sizes to

**Fire Calls**  
**Hoopeston Fire Department** was called at 4:45 p.m. Monday to McDonald's, 845 S. Dixie Hwy., for the smell of gas. No injuries were reported.  
**Firemen were called** at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday to the 300 block of Cedar for a smoke-filled house. A police officer who arrived first said the house was filled with thick, black smoke. The homeowner was also present.  
 The fire was extinguished without injuries.

accommodate various sizes of families.  
 Another improvement project driven by the city is the demolition of dilapidated buildings in Hoopeston. The city has paid to take down two downtown buildings, with a third on the list. Vermilion County Land Bank demolished three residential properties this year, as well.  
 Other planned city improvements include lining sanitary sewers on the north side after recently receiving an EPA loan for the work, and replacing playground equipment destroyed by a falling tree at McFerren Park earlier this year.  
 Work on both will be done in 2019.

**Weather**  
 Mostly cloudy today, tonight. High 44, low 27. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 35, low 26. Sunday, sunny, chance of snow late. High 40, low 31. Monday, chance of rain/sow. High 42, low 27.



**Have you seen me?**  
 Sally, a four-month old calico kitten, is missing from her rural Hoopeston home. She may have jumped into the engine compartment of the family truck and come to Hoopeston, possibly jumping out at Honeywell School. If seen, call Duane Sheppard, (217) 497-7495.

**Briefly**  
**New Year's closings**  
 • Republic Services will be closed New Year's Day. Garbage pickup will run one day late the rest of the week.  
 • Hoopeston Public Library will be closed December 31 and January 1 for New Year's.  
 • Hoopeston City offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday. Hoopeston Police Department will be open.

**From the Blotter**  
 A cell phone was turned in to police at 9:40 a.m. Wednesday. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

**Obituaries**  
**FRANKLIN** - James Michael Franklin, 54, of Oakwood, died at 9:50 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

**Classifieds**

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**  
 1 BR, single/double occupancy efficiency apartments available at Princess Apartments, Hoopeston. \$450/mo., \$450 deposit. Clean, secure building. All utilities, refrigerator, stove included, coin laundry available on premises. No pets. Pick up application at Bricks and Ivy Sports, 201 E. Main St.

**HELP WANTED**  
 Openings available for construction workers. Concrete experience would be helpful. Apply in person at Silver Brothers Construction Co., 105 E. Washington St., Hoopeston.  
 Hiring delivery driver and kitchen worker. Please apply in person at Pizza King, 111 E Main St., Hoopeston

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