

As the Holiday Season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped shape our business in a most significant way. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come. We wish you a very happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity. From the Computer Works, Inc., and us to you!

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Essex building owner goes on offense about lack of progress

Requested to attend December 18, 2018 Hoopeston City Council meeting to explain the lack of progress made on the former Essex building, owner Justin Acton took the opportunity to chastise city officials.

Acton was asked to explain his tardiness in meeting deadlines set in a redevelopment agreement for the building.

Ald. Alex Houmes kicked off questioning Acton, saying that, at 262 days, Acton was overdue on the 120-day requirement to secure a signed lease agreement with an anchor store and at 202 days, past the 180-day requirement to complete the roof of what was called the "NAPA wing," complete the anchor store build out and other tasks.

In an apparent misunderstanding between the two, Acton three times asked Houmes "How many days are in a year, Alex?" and then took Clerk Gail Lane to task for allegedly laughing. "This isn't funny," he said.

Acton complained that it took two years for him to get the building but Ald. Bill Goodwine said that didn't matter because the clock starting ticking when he got the building on December 1, 2017.

Saying he has made "quite a bit of progress" on the building, Acton admitted, "we're not exactly where we want it to be."

In mid-summer, about the time he was hired to demolish downtown buildings, Acton said an Illinois EPA representative contacted him after a resident made a complaint. The representative, unsatisfied that Acton had Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports on the property and took site samples.

One sample was deemed "hot for asbestos," he said, adding the EPA "heavily suggested" work stop until an asbestos abatement company clears the problem.

In light of their concern, Acton also asked why no aldermen stopped at the site to talk to him. Both Goodwine and Ald. Lourdine Florek said they had but that Acton was not onsite.

Asked by Goodwine why he did not notify the city of

the delay, Acton responded, "Basically it was none of your business at that point." He explained that the situation was "very delicate" and that hoped to get the situation resolved. "There's a lot of things riding on this," he said.

As aldermen continued to question Acton, his attorney, Scott Perkins, said Acton had been forthcoming but some information was not public and should be asked in a private meeting. No such meeting was scheduled at the time.

Acton did report that the rear of the building has 100 percent occupancy with three tenants and that the anchor tenant is "very disappointed they're not in there."

Perkins had a second reason to attend the meeting. In the public comment section, he asked when repairs would be made to 207 E. Main, which had a party wall with a building the city paid to demolish.

"The way the building came down was fantastic," Perkins told the council, adding the city has no ordinances on party walls and hoped the city would "step up and make those repairs."

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said he feels one bid was previously sought verbally by one person but that specifications are being written and the city will advertise for bids on the work, to which Perkins urged the council to "move expeditiously."

In other business, Goodwine presented his recommendation on city participation in private tributes and recognitions, such as road signs. His suggested policy is "It will be the policy of the City of Hoopeston that the city will spend no taxpayer dollars and in general be uninvolved in sponsoring non-city government tributes, recognitions and the like."

Truman Page, who requested the council's help in getting a roadside sign acknowledging his son's ladies' softball umpiring accomplishments, was at the meeting about his request.

Aldermen decided a street/alley committee meeting was necessary and told Page he would be invited to it.

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From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 5:09 p.m. December 27 at Wyman and Seventh St.

Police said Alexander Funk, 19, of Hoopeston, was westbound in a 2008 Honda sedan and failed to yield to a northbound 2005 Honda sedan driven by David Watson, 49, also of Hoopeston.

Police are investigating a report made at 10:40 a.m. Friday when a man said the front passenger window of a vehicle was damaged at his home in the 300 block of North Sixth Ave.

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B I N G O

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An attempt to arrest a Hoopeston man on outstanding warrants also netted a Milford man.

Police went to the 400 block of East Penn at 5:47 p.m. Friday to locate Ronald Weigand, 35, of Hoopeston, wanted on Vermilion, Iroquois and Cumberland county warrants. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Carl Keeling, 37, of Milford, was also arrested, charged with possession of methamphetamine, then taken to the Public Safety Building to await arraignment.

A **40-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 12:38 a.m. Saturday that someone damaged his windows in the

700 block of East Washington.

Breanna Johnson, 19, of Danville, was arrested after police were called at 9:03 p.m. Saturday to Bzzz Place, 306 E. Main, for a report of underage drinking.

She was charged with purchase or acceptance of gifts of liquor by persons under 21 after allegedly having an alcoholic beverage in her hand and was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 9:19 p.m. Saturday at Main and Sixth Ave. Israel Layden, 16, of Hoopeston, reported he was eastbound when an unknown vehicle struck his vehicle from the

Vocalist, musician to be featured at First United Methodist Church

Hoopeston First United Methodist Church will hold a concert Saturday at the church, 403 E. Main.

Jack Wright, trumpeter and bass-baritone from Urbana, and soprano Elizabeth Patrick will perform at 2 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken and refreshments will follow the concert.

Wright will graduate in May from Loyola University New Orleans with a degree in music education. At Loyola, he is part of the wind ensemble, orchestra, trumpet

ensemble, brass quintet, chorale and Dr. Saint Julien's voice studio.

He is the grandson Delmar and Carolyn Graham and son of John and Michelle Wright.

Patrick, of Winter Park, Fla., will graduate Loyola in May with a degree in music therapy. She is part of the chorale, Chorale SSA and voice studio. After graduation she will complete an internship at Trustbridge Hospice in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Obituaries

ARMS - Roger Dale Arms Sr., 53, of Hoopeston, died at 7:59 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018 in Ambia, Ind. Visitation was 11 a.m. (CST) until the 1 p.m. funeral Wednesday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Graveside service will be at 2 p.m. (EST) Thursday at Valhalla Memory Gardens, Bloomington, Ind. Memorials are suggested to Morning Star Church, 201 N. Chicago St., Rossville IL 60963.

BROWN - Linda Sue (Garrison) Brown, 71, of Hoopeston, died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018 at Watseka Rehab and Health Care. She was cremated and no service scheduled Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements.

FRANKLIN - James Michael Franklin, 54, of Oakwood, died at 9:50 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2-18, at home. He was cremated. Graveside service was at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements.

GLENN - Dale Wesley Glenn, 79, of Hoopeston, died December 23, 2018. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday

at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Church of God, 1004 E. Orange St., Hoopeston IL 60942 or Crescent City (Fla.) Christian Center.

HOUMES - Daniel Vinson Houmes, 75, of Hoopeston, died at 5:01 a.m. Saturday Dec. 29, 2018 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Wellington-Greer Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 143, Wellington IL 60973 or Prairie Green Church of Christ, 278 N 2800 East Rd., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Weather

Sunny today. High 39. Tonight, clear. Low 27. Tomorrow, sunny. High 45, low 28.

rear.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 12:36 a.m. Tuesday at Tedd's Home Beverage, 101 W. Main. Police said an unknown vehicle hit a parked 2001 Pontiac owned by Delores Frazier, of Hoopeston.

Two people were arrested after a traffic stop at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Main and Seventh Ave.

Alex J. Winchester, 18, of Hoopeston, and Jady N. West, 18, of Danville, were each charged with possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia and released on notices to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Briefly

Community Awards ceremony

Hoopeston Community Awards ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Lorraine Theatre. This year's ceremony will include the judging and crowning of Miss Hoopeston 2019. Awards will be presented by Hoopeston Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce, Barbara Standish NSDAR and The Chronicle.

Concessions sales and freewill donations welcomed to the Lorraine Foundation.

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include: **Tiny Tots** story program, 10:30 a.m. Fridays. Stories, activities and socialization for toddlers and preschoolers and their parents/caregivers.

Classifieds

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