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# Just the Facts

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Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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Louridine Florek, Owner

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## Kathryn Merkle, Chad Allen plan January wedding



### CHAD ALLEN and KATHRYN MERKLE

Rickey and Dawn Merkle of Cissna Park are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn, to Chad Allen of Hoopeston. He is the son of Keith and Barbara Allen of East Lynn. The wedding will take place January 16th, 2021.

## Crusinberry gives 2020 wrap-up in 'state of the city' report

Mayor Bill Crusinberry updated aldermen on several items during Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, in what he called his "state of the city" report.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"Casey's IS building," he announced, stating he received an email from the company's architect that the project is moving and seeking information on building permits.

The new Subway, located across Rt. 1 from the old Subway, is open, although the drive-through was not open as of Tuesday. With the store in its new location, the former Subway can be demolished to make room for the new Casey's store.

Asbestos cleanup at the former Essex building is done and some work has been done on the site. Crusinberry said owner Justin Acton is waiting to hear from the Illinois Attorney General's office about a possible fine for not addressing the asbestos issue sooner.

Monical's Pizza is expanding its parking lot and is addressing complaints of flooding in neighbors' yards. A V-shaped surface drain will be constructed behind the restaurant to Sixth Ave., to move water from the parking lot without it going into adjacent yards.

Both Silgan Containers and Teasdale Foods are experiencing growth. Silgan is considering expanding lines for new product, while Teasdale is still hoping to build a new dock to handle its increased business.

Work continues at the Downtown Motel. Crusinberry has met with owner Sabah Yokhana, who requested larger water lines to the motel. Crusinberry said a 2" line may be installed on the west side of the complex, to accommodate a planned laundry facility for guests.

Yokhana has also requested he be allowed to enclose the lower and upper walkways but that enclosing the lower ones would impinge on the city right of way and violate the fire zone code, which states exterior walls in the area may not be made of combustible material. It would also be a safety hazard, with only one way in and out, he added.

An unidentified business has expressed interest in buying property in the city, Crusinberry said, adding he heard a new business will go into the former Sewing Boutique, which closed after 40 years.

### GRANTS

Crusinberry said Hoopeston has received grants for structural rehabilitation/demolition and water/sewer improvements.

Hoopeston applied for and received a \$125,000 state grant for residential property demolition/rehabilitation. Three properties have been identified for the funds and have been acquired by Central Illinois Land Bank (CILB): 305 S. Second Ave., 406 Front St., and one at the corner of Wyman and Eighth St., he said.

A fourth property, the former Dyer Mansion on East Honeywell, is "high on the list" to be demolished. Crusinberry said owner Erik Pelikant said he signed a quit-claim deed for the property to a person from Chicago, but there is no county record of the transfer.

Mike Davis, CILB director, helped Hoopeston with its grant application and submitted one on behalf of the land bank. That request was successful and the land bank was awarded \$125,000 for projects in 17 small communities, Crusinberry said.

How the \$400,000 water/sewer grant came to be is not clear. Crusinberry said he believes a previous engineer applied for it for the northeast side sewer-lining project. The city was approved for an EPA low interest loan for that work, but the loan cannot be repaid with grant money, he said.

Instead, two longer-term issues are set for repairs: a sanitary sewer line between Washington and Lincoln from Sixth St. to Euclid and a new water main on Market from Penn to Honeywell.

The sanitary line has been a problem for area residents for a while. It is believed a clay tile collapsed but an effort to televis the line was unsuccessful as the camera became blocked in the line.

See REPORT on other side

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**Report** continued from other side

The Market water main has had repeated leaks for several years, he added.

The water/sewer department hopes to be the recipient of yet another \$400,000 grant. Sewer plant operator ERH Enterprises has applied for the grant to replace a rotor/paddle system that helps aerate waste, Crusinberry said.

**DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS**

Due to a lack of action, Crusinberry is going to ask city attorney Dave Wesner to seek daily fines at January appearances in Hoopeston City Court by representatives of Bzzz Bar and the former Countryside Mall.

The attorney for Bzzz Bar owner Brian Swinford had a scheduling conflict for the December 9 court day. The case has been scheduled for many court hearings since the bar burned on March 24, 2019.

**From the Blotter**

Robert Spisak, 29, of Chenoa, was arrested after a traffic stop at 4:41 p.m. Tuesday at Fourth St. and Honeywell. He was charged with driving while license suspended, disobeying a yield sign and operating an uninsured motor vehicle and was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

Mike Mahalios, owner of Countryside Mall, had hired an architectural firm to deal with damage caused when the roof fell into the second floor of the building. He has since decided not to use the architect's services, Crusinberry said.

If a daily fine is implemented, it will be waived if the situation is remedied within 30 days, he added.

In unrelated business:

- Ald. Jeff Wise reported that street signs to keep semi traffic off of Lincoln Street arrived Tuesday and were expected to be installed Wednesday.

- He also reported a few complaints about alleys not being plowed after the snowfall Sunday. He said the ground was too soft to take plows into the alleys and that doing so would have torn up the alleys.

- Ald. Robin Lawson said a proposed agreement between Hoopeston and Arrow Ambulance regarding purchasing new ambulances is on hold, giving both sides time to research and consider options.

- The council approved, 5-0, a request from Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, to open a checking account for the Hoopeston Historic Preservation Commission, which is fundraising for this year's

sesquicentennial.

The council will meet at 7 p.m. next Tuesday to review the International Property Maintenance Code to determine which parts of it can be used in Hoopeston. The meeting, suggested by Ald. Carl Ankenbrand, came after

**Briefly**

**Birthday card shower**

A card shower is being held for Rossville resident Frank Morse, who turns 100 on Sunday. Cards may be sent to him at 111 Henderson St., Rossville, IL 60963.

some aldermen criticized the set of rules.

Crusinberry admitted the document is "way too detailed with "way too many rules," but added it can be fine-tuned to meet Hoopeston's needs.

**Weather**

Patchy freezing fog/fog, then cloudy today. High 34. Tonight, cloudy. Low 26. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 32, low 21.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](http://justthefacts.net/weather/).

**Classifieds**

**HELP WANTED**

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare has an opening for a full time cook. Requirements: Must be 19 years old, must be able to follow recipes and successfully cook/bake according to the recipe, must be able to pass a background check, must be willing to obtain Food Service Manager License, must be available from 6:30am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, must be able to lift objects up to 20lbs and stand for most of the shift. Application information can be requested by emailing Terri Bush at [mustardseed.kitchenstaff@gmail.com](mailto:mustardseed.kitchenstaff@gmail.com).

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Interested candidates can apply online at [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11205/0](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11205/0)

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time, with a full benefit package, and part-time positions. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shifts available. Choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle - work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> shift.

We offer a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn extra cash during school hours, with an. 8 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fit the needs of your family.

Please apply on-line at [www.full-fill.com](http://www.full-fill.com) go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

Driver w/CDL needed. Home every night. Trips within 100 miles of Hoopeston. (217) 304-1943.

Autumn Fields of Hoopeston is looking for CNAs part time hours, every other weekend and shared holidays. Please call Autumn Fields @ 217-283-2222

KS*i* in Cissna Park is seeking a qualified Controls Technician for project site startups and in-field customer training for controls systems. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication, electrical, technical, and troubleshooting skills. An understanding of PLCs and HMI applications is preferred. Travel is required. Apply online at [www.ksiedge.com](http://www.ksiedge.com) or send resume to [hr@ksiedge.com](mailto:hr@ksiedge.com).

Dogtown Heating, Air, & Plumbing is in search of an experienced HVAC technician to help serve our customers in the area. Pay based on experience. Health insurance, Life insurance, and 2 weeks paid vacation. We have a family atmosphere that serves our customers with honesty and integrity. Email [brad.dogtown@gmail.com](mailto:brad.dogtown@gmail.com)

Mechanic wanted. Experience with heavy truck, construction, and agricultural machinery preferred. Call 217-474-8349.

Cade's Heating and Air HVAC installer/ service tech. must have valid IL drivers license and EPA freon license. Please send resume to [ramcade@frontier.com](mailto:ramcade@frontier.com) or 101 E Penn St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking full time and seasonal help. Requirements include at least a Class B CDL and ability to pass a drug test. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

Teasdale Latin Foods has immediate openings on 2nd shift in both Distribution and Manufacturing. Pay to be determined based on experience level. Stop by the Human Resources office at 215 W. Washington Street, Hoopeston, for more detail. Please no phone calls.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

**HOUSES FOR RENT**

710 E. Main., Hoopeston. 3 BR, 1 bath bungalow. \$650/mo. Plus sec. dep. References required. No pets, please. Call (217) 304-3477 for application. Owner –licensed real estate agent.

**SERVICES WANTED**

Part time caregiver for elderly man with early dementia. Send resume to P.O. Box 85, East Lynn IL 60932 or email to [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net).

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