



Downtown Hoopeston Farmers Market

Fridays from 5-7 p.m.
June, July, and August

**112 WINE AND COFFEE SHOPPE
PARKING LOT**

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reserve a vendor space*

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<https://112wine.com>



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Just the Facts

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348

Lourdine Florek, Owner

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Council discusses condition, remedies for downtown blight

A newcomer to Hoopeston City Council is tackling the issue of dilapidated downtown buildings in quick fashion.

At Tuesday's meeting, newly elected Ald. Kellie Ferrell presented information and pictures of the former Countryside Mall, Moose lodge and Bzzz Bar, suggesting the council use the recently passed International Property Management Code and other rules to take possession of the buildings and demolish them.

Ferrell, head of the city's civic improvement committee, expected no action Tuesday, instead wanted the council to discuss the problem and solutions.

Aside from using existing regulations, she brought two new suggestions to the group: a possible vacant building registry, similar to one used in Chicago, and a new ordinance that would ban residential use in the first floor of downtown buildings.

Chicago's registry states that if a building is vacant for more than 30 days, the owner must secure it to prevent unlawful entry; insure it with minimum coverages of \$300,000 and \$1 million for residential and commercial properties, respectively; register it with the city's Department of Buildings and pay a registration fee; post a visible sign with the owner's name and contact information and vacant building registration number; and maintain the property, visiting it to assure it is clean and secure.

The proposed ordinance to ban first floor residents,

pushed by Ald. Robin Lawson, would mandate operating commercial or retail business on the first floor.

In discussion, Ald. Lourdine Florek said she would not vote for the ordinance because it restricts the owner's use of the building and that ordinances should not be created to apply to a small group but should be something applied to everyone. Also, she said, the city has other means to monitor the situation, such as regulations that mandate residences must have running water among other laws.

Currently, most dilapidated buildings downtown have no running water.

Ald. Jeff Wise suggested adding non-profit organizations to commercial and retail businesses.

Ald. Joe Garrett suggested owners be cited and taken to state court, instead of Hoopeston City Court, where a judge can grant ownership to the city for demolition/remediation.

After hashing out what steps are available, the council turned how to finance the work. Mayor Bill Crusinberry was asked if tax increment financing (TIF) funds could be used. He said he didn't think they could, and asked former alderman Bill Goodwine, who served as finance chair. Goodwine said he wasn't sure but he thought they could. Florek then said she believed TIF funds could be used because the fund is to help remediate blighted property.

See **BLIGHT** on other side

Anniversary Market

It all started back in 1979!

Shop Thurs. 3-6, Fri. 10-5, Sat., 9-12

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From the Blotter

A 57-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 9:20 a.m. Tuesday that someone took a lawn jockey from her yard in the 800 block of East Washington. Police are investigating.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of East Washington. Police said Dion R. Merrill, 39, of Hoopeston, was westbound in a 2016 Dodge Journey, became distracted and hit a parked 2012 GMC Acadia owned by Bridget Strawser, 27, also of Hoopeston.

Merrill's car was towed from the scene due to damage to the front passenger tire. Strawser's vehicle remained parked awaiting instructions from her insurance company.

Shai Anne Arseneau, 24, of Watseka, was arrested at 9:29 p.m. Tuesday in the 100 block of South Third St. Originally stopped for a traffic violation, she was found to be wanted on a Macon County warrant.

She was released with a notice to appear and a court date.

Blight continued from other side

erties to provide economic growth.

Crusinberry said the TIF fund has about \$400,000.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Florek that the pool will open June 5 but the splash pad will not be open until repairs to the system are made. She reported that 58 season passes were sold Saturday, where everyone got 10 percent off the total cost of their passes. Passes purchased ranged from one person to a family of eight, she said. The day netted more than \$8,000 for the pool.

- Approved painting a mural on the front wall of the pool building, to be done by David Webber, who said \$500 had been donated for mural and that he might donate the donation to purchase volleyball nets for the pool.

- Approved, 4-3-1, giving Save the Lorraine Foundation \$50,000 in TIF money to put a new roof on the Lorraine Theatre. Aldermen Stephen Eyrych, Wise and Florek voted against, with Ferrell, Garrett, Lawson and Bob Porth voting yes. Ald. Kyle Richards abstained. His father, Jim Richards, is president of the foundation board.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 80. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 60. Tomorrow, sunny. High 85, low 63.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has openings for the following positions for the 2021-22 school year:

*Special Education Paraprofessional at John Greer Elementary School (Paraprofessional license recommended or 60 college credit hours)

* Classroom Paraprofessional at Hoopeston Area Middle School (Paraprofessional license recommended or 60 college credit hours)

*Alternative Learning Center Supervisor at Hoopeston Area Middle School (Paraprofessional license recommended or 60 college credit hours)

*Personal Aides at Maple Elementary School

*Bus Drivers

Applications are available online at Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us

Morning kitchen help wanted. Send resume to Box A, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 or email to publish@justthefacts.net

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11621

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11620

Looking for a fulfilling job in the natural health care field? Robinson Chiropractic is looking for strong individuals who are enthusiastic, outgoing, positive people who have an interest in natural healthcare and wellness. Candidates need to be team oriented, multi-tasking, detail-oriented individuals. Candidates will be trained to assist with patient care. Send resumes to trina.keller@robchiro.com.

Pizza King is taking applications for delivery drivers. Please apply in person at 111 E Main St., Hoopeston.

DRIVERS You deserve the Hoekstra Experience! Hoekstra Transportation, LLC hiring Dedicated, Regional, and Local Drivers. Call Jan (815) 2Be-Home

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for seasonal employees. Applications are available at www.cityofhoopeston.com or at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

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

HIRING Immediately! Local Class A CDL Driver needed to haul grain and fertilizer. HOME DAILY. Email us your contact information to cremeenstrucking@gmail.com. Call Jennifer at 217-799-5762.

Silver Brothers is looking for part-time mixer drivers. Hours will vary. Must have Class B CDL, pass a drug test, be able to climb a

ladder, and lift 75 lbs. Pay will be \$20/hour to an experienced driver. Perfect opportunity for a retired person wanting some extra money. Stop by 105 E. Washington, Hoopeston for application.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, is offering many job opportunities for full-time applicants, with a full benefit package, or part-time positions. 1st and 2nd shifts available. We offer a part-time flexible work schedule from 8 am-4:30 pm M-F for Moms & Dads.

Graduating seniors that are 18 looking for a summer job or not pursuing a college career, we offer career opportunities.

Apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or Employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is looking to hire 2-3 part time assistant teachers. Requirements include: 18 or older, high school diploma or GED, college credits are preferred but not mandatory for the right candidate, willing to undergo a background check and fingerprinting, flexible and able to work as early as 6:30 a.m. and as late as 5:30 p.m., and have reliable transportation. Please email Nicole Gregory at mustardseed.christiandaycare@gmail.com for application information.

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

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

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.

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 1st St. in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: 808 S. Fourth St. Fri., 8-5, Sat. 8-? Children-adult men & women's clothes, house pictures, knickknacks, Schwinn 10-speed bicycles, lots of misc.

HOOPESTON: 2995 E 200 N Rd. Fri. & Sat., 7-2. 2005 Honda motorcycle, furniture, signs, old license plates, crafts, chairs, bar stools, tables, walking sticks, shelves, new pillows—something for everyone!

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 or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!