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City aims to take ownership of Kelley's Pub, seek demo bids

Hoopeston officials are taking another step toward eliminating blight in the downtown area. After a 20-minute executive session early in its meeting, Hoopeston City Council approved acquiring the former Kelly's Pub & Grub. Taking ownership of the building, at 225-229 E. Main, was approved in a 7-0 vote, with Ald. Joe Garrett absent. After the meeting, Ald. Kellie Ferrell, civic improve-



Paul Kelnhofer addresses the Hoopeston City Council Tuesday night about the city paying for damage to a house he owns that was damaged in a fire department training exercise last year.

ment committee chair, said officials are offering the current owner \$2,000 to sign the property over to the city. Once the city takes possession, demolition bids can be requested for everything from Countryside Mall east to Market St., Ferrell said. "It's a big deal," said Mayor Jeff Wise, adding it "was a long time in coming." In other business, Paul Kelnhofer, of rural Wellington, attended the meeting to ask the city to pay to repair a house he owns that he said was damaged in a fire training exercise last year. In June, Hoopeston Fire Department held a training See COUNCIL on other side

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Briefly

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include: **Kids' STEAM Lab**, for kids in grades 1-5. 3:30 p.m. Thursday. This week, kids will learn winter science with "Fun with Slime."

Treeclimbers Genealogy Group, 10:30 a.m. Saturday. This month's program by Marilyn Tyler is "What's in a Name?"

Breast cancer support

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support group meets the third Thursday of each month at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes Bowling Alley. The next meeting will be January 19. Please spread the word and join us for a meeting to offer support to past and present breast cancer survivors. For more information, call Pat Foster, (815) 984-4040 or (309) 208-9829.

From the Blotter

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 2:41 p.m. Tuesday in the 300 block of West Penn. Desideria Paredes, of Hoopeston, told police that she noticed damage on her parked 2007 GMC Yukon.

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URICH - Leta Urich, 91, of Hoopeston, went to be with Jesus at 11:30 a.m. Monday, January 9, 2023, at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. She was born April 19, 1931, in Albany, KY, the daughter of Brownlow and Mae (Looper) Byers. She married Carter Urich on November 29, 1949, in Danville. He preceded her in death.

She is survived by three sons, Larry (Bonnie) Urich of Fort Worth, TX, Jerry (Gayle) Urich of Milfor, and Terry (Marcella) Urich of Waynesboro, VA; two sisters, Ruby (Richard) Birkey of Hoopeston, and Benita Grogan of Hoopeston; 12 grandchildren, Sean (Tracy), Holly (Shane), Michael, Breonna, Britnie, Bree, Brooke, Brynne, Brielle, Brett, Joshua, and Braidee-Anne; and 10 great-grandchildren, Carter, Tenley, Cayden, Kinsey, Matthew, Jack, Jonah, Savannah, Brittlyn, and Molly Mae. She is also survived by a special friend, Tom Richter.

Council continued from other side

exercise, burning a house at 812 N. Market. Kelnhofer owns a house at 810 N. Market, which he said was damaged during the exercise. "Are you all going to pay or are we going to court," he asked the council after coming to the microphone to speak.

Kelnhofer inferred that the city is trying to shift responsibility to the owner of the house that was burned. "It wasn't his negligence that burned my house," he said, adding city officials need to take responsibility when things go wrong. He said a fire inspector told him the house should never have been used for training, as it was too close to his house. "If that isn't liability, I don't know what is," he said, then singling out Wise. "You told me you were going to handle it," Kelnhofer said.

Wise responded forcefully, asking Kelnhofer to "please step away from the mic."

"You guys are worthless," Kelnhofer said, turning from the podium.

In other business, the council heard from Ald. Stephen Eyrich, water/sewer committee chairman, that the city has an abundance of water meters, thanks to a shipping snafu.

Eyrich said last May, Water Supt. Steve Baker ordered 500 water meters. "They didn't come and they didn't come and they didn't come," so more recently, Richard Cappellano, water superintendent since Baker went on medical leave, ordered 400 meters. Those meters were delivered.

"Guess what showed up last week," Eyrich asked and answered - the originally-ordered 500 meters.

Obituaries

In addition to her husband, Leta was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters; one brother; and one grandson, Chad.

Leta was a homemaker. She attended New Life Tabernacle of Hoopeston, where she enjoyed worshipping the Lord. Her hobbies included reading and upholstering couches and chairs. Leta also enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her children, grandchildren, and sisters.

Private family services were held.

Memorial contributions may be made to New Life Tabernacle of Hoopeston, 205 E. Penn St. Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Please visit www.anderson-funeral-home.com to view Leta's eternal tribute page and to send the family condolences.

Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston handled the

At roughly \$235 each, the department had an \$116,000 expense that was not budgeted, Eyrich said. The department would like to keep the meters, Eyrich said, suggesting the cost of meters will continue to increase. However, no meters will be included in next year's budget, he added.

The council is expected to vote on the additional meters at its next meeting, as well as another request from Eyrich, to purchase software, a predictive tool for evaluating income versus expenses in the department. Called Waterworth, the software license and support will cost \$6,450 annually, he said.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Approved annual membership in the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce at \$100.
- Approved \$20,000 of tax increment financing (TIF) money be given to Gabby and Bailey Crose to assist in construction of a new building for Stay Awhile, a home décor store currently at 222 E. Main.
- Approved a \$3,129 bid from Keith Bell for a no-longer-needed water department truck.

Weather

Chance of rain, then patchy fog today. High 49. Tonight, cloudy, breezy. Low 29. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 34, low 23.

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

arrangements.

McMAINS - Letha M. "Granny" (Landsdown) Green McMains, 98, of Potomac, died at 2:05 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 at Autumn Fields, Hoopeston. Private family services were held at Blurton Funeral Home, Potomac. Burial was in Potomac Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Lakeview College of Nursing or Vermilion County Animal Shelter. Condolences may be shared at www.blurtonfuneralhomes.com.

Classifieds

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Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13293

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Silgan Containers is hiring a Production Supervisor/Manager Trainee. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13376

MILFORD CROSSROADS YOUTH CENTER is seeking a DIRECTOR., Flexible Hours. Working with youth in grades 2-10. Applications available at Milford Building & Loan, Milford Village Hall or on Facebook at Milford Crossroads Youth Center. Contact Rod at (815) 471-4634. Immediate start date.

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

Cade's Heating and Air seeks a HVAC service/ installer tech. IL DR license required and Freon license preferred. Must have mechanical ability. HVAC experience preferred. send resume to: ramcade@frontier.com:101 E Penn St. Hoopeston, Starting pay based on experience.

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