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# Just the Facts

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348  
Lourdine Florek, Owner

Thursday, August 3, 2023

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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## 2023 Little Miss, Mister Sweetcorn winners named Saturday from field of 25 candidates

Hoopeston's First Church of God was filled with beauty and handsomeness Saturday as more than two dozen youngsters turned out for the Little Miss/Mr. Sweetcorn pageant.

Twenty-two young ladies and three boys competed, said Kellie Frederick Sheppard, who, with Allie Allison, are directors of the event. Most contestants came from Hoopeston, but others came from Vermilion and Iroquois counties and one contestant came from Indiana, she said.

Winners were:  
Overall Little Miss Sweetcorn 2023: Darcy Kinnaird



Photo provided  
Winners in the Little Miss/Mr. Sweetcorn Pageant are, from left Haven Burns, Graydon Young, Kaylee Keleminic, Brayden Kinnaird, Faith Kinnaird, Darcy Kinnaird, Audrey Curtin, Millie Nogle (with mother-Megan Nogle), and Graham Collum with mother Tiffany Collum.

Overall Little Mr. Sweetcorn 2023: Graham Cullom  
Baby Miss Sweetcorn: Millie Nogle  
Tiny Miss Sweetcorn: Kaylee Keleminic  
Princess Miss Sweetcorn: Haven Burns  
Junior Miss Sweetcorn: Audrey Curtin  
Teen Miss Sweetcorn: Brayden Kinnaird  
Miss Photogenic: Faith Kinnaird  
Mr. Photogenic: Grayden Young  
The Overall Little Miss Sweetcorn is chosen from

all the female contestants and is the one with the highest score of everyone. The boy with the highest score is crowned Overall Little Mr. Sweetcorn.

Miss and Mr. Photogenic are contestants who did not receive a title but placed the highest in the photographs.

The pageant was established in 2004, Sheppard said. Follow their Facebook page Little Miss/Mr. Sweetcorn for information about the 2024 pageant.





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## Rossville-Alvin High School

CLASS OF 1968

55th Class Reunion

Saturday, August 4

Hubbard Trail Country Club

Any Rossville-Alvin graduate or family member of a graduate is welcome to come to HTCC at 6 p.m.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Writer seeks public clarity with letter

It appears my statement, detailed below, read to the Village of Rossville Board in April, has caused quite a stir. I feel I have been misquoted and facts have been misconstrued. To provide public clarity, below is verbatim what I read to the Village of Rossville board. As retaliation and retribution from the Village of Rossville Board, they have chosen to not address the guano around Hub City Media nor pave the parking lot – all items previously agreed to be addressed and remediated. Further, they have chosen to not address the ADA issue at the corner of Gilbert Street and Summit Street. At this point, I feel my reputation has been smeared and I have been personally attacked by the Village of Rossville board as retaliation and retribution of my statement and their current standard of operating and should be acknowledged and addressed publicly, hence this open letter to the community. Finally, to be crystal clear, my views, opinions and statements are entirely my own - without influence by or in conjunction with anyone else. To infer or say otherwise is disrespectful and demeaning.

My statement, in its entirety, is below:

“I am reading this because I want to be clear in addressing each of you. Most importantly, I am leaving each of you a copy of this statement so you can reference the information I detail. I know how gossip works; so, if I am to be quoted, I want to ensure information is accurately attributed to me.

Yet again, I'm taking time out of my busy schedule to address this with you and this is going to be a 'one way' conversation. At this point, I do not want nor desire any response from you, as anything said tonight will only be another example of an attempt to placate.

This is an important message for each of you that goes well beyond the specific situation at 106 N Chicago and affects each and every village resident.

We live in a world where perception is reality. Whether you wish to acknowledge that or not, it is true. To be clear, this board - trustees and mayor - at best is incompetent (and I say that generously). At worst, you are liars.

Overarching perception of this board by the residents (and I feel very comfortable saying this on behalf of them) is that you - trustees and mayor - are not working in the best interests of the village. When someone has an issue and attends this meeting, one of two things happen. Either a resolution is promised and nothing happens - which makes you a liar - or a resolution is promised and the solution is half-hearted at best - which makes you incompetent.

This is not something that I am pulling out of the air. I have seen and experienced both firsthand. Further, examples of this goes well beyond Hub City Media and me. If you want to see specifics, take a drive around the village.

- The 'business' (and I use that term loosely) downtown that functions as a 'rummage sale,' usually only 'open' during village events, with a crumbling building and stacks of junk piled behind it - That's incompetence
- The guano around Hub City Media's office - That's lies
- The parking lot for Hub City Media that has taken four years and is not finished - That's lies and incompetence
- The sand pit between GeeManetti's and Country Way Coin Laundry - That's lies and incompetence
- The masonry sealing on the side of 115 E Attica - That's incompetence
- Storm drains that flood our basements and streets - That's lies and incompetence
- Decaying sidewalks and haphazard replacements, with a recent replacement on Gilbert where a section doesn't even meet ADA standards - That's lies and incompetence

I will ask one question of you. I suspect the question is rhetorical at best and your answer will showcase another example of your lack of care and concern for this village. Are you aware of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants the state is providing to cities, towns and villages for improvements - including infrastructure, economic development, beautification and even events to attract tourists?

It seems the only place in town that is improving and well maintained is the elementary school - and that's because you aren't involved.

Let me be clear. Not one of you has done anything to help this village in a real and meaningful way. All you provide is empty promises or half-hearted executions. You quote on the village website as this is a place to stay with core principals of small-town values, guided growth and preservation of historical, cultural and natural heritage.

### Weather

Slight chance of thunderstorms today. High 81. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 65. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 87, low 62.

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

age. Each of you needs to do your elected duty to fulfill this promise, as the residents of this village have been asking for years, in a way that is truthful and competent.”

Eric Thomas  
Rossville, IL

COUNTRY  
FINANCIAL

Sandie Smith

COUNTRY Financial

office has moved to

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Same phone number: (217) 283-4144

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

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Aquality Solutions is looking for men or women to deliver its products to area businesses and residential customers. This position offers benefits and incentive bonuses. Apply in person at 102 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Truck Drivers needed. Must have clean driving record. Contact Brent @ 815-405-4000 [sintruckinginc@gmail.com](mailto:sintruckinginc@gmail.com)

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