

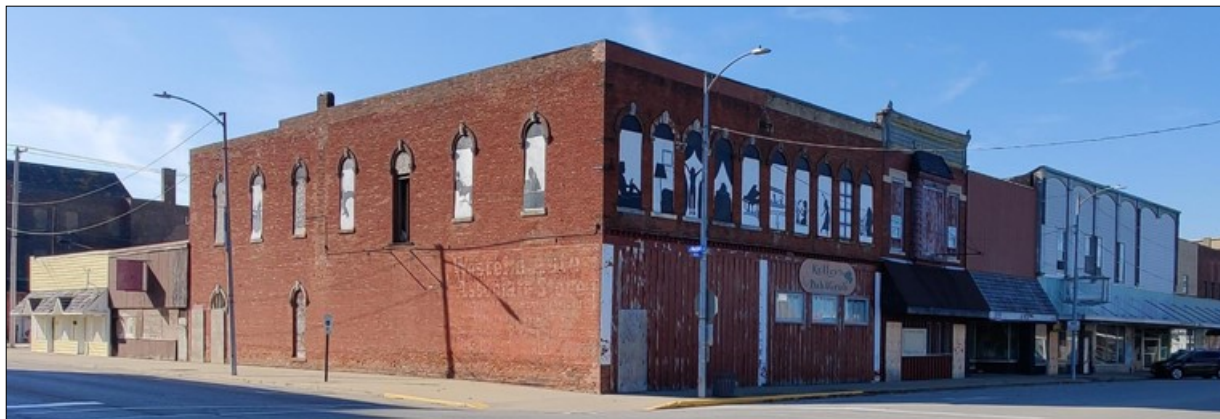
2024 Community Awards Ceremony
Sunday, January 7, 2024
 4:00 p.m., doors open at 3:30 p.m.
Include the judging and crowning of Miss Hoopeston 2024.
Lorraine Theatre
Sponsored by the Hoopeston Jaycees

Smoked BBQ
 at
Rossville Family Restaurant
Saturday, Jan. 6th & Sunday, Jan. 7th
Smoked Pulled Pork, Ribs, Brisket & Burnt Ends
 715 S. Chicago (217) 748-6201

New Year, New Agent
Four Corners Insurance Agency
 of Rankin and Hoopeston, IL is pleased to announce **Corey Moore** has joined our agency. He is licensed in crop insurance, as well as farm, home and auto. **Corey** is a lifelong Hoopeston resident and has been in the Marine Corps for the last four years as a Corporal. He currently serves as a Sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves. He, his wife, Jena, and daughter, Jaycie, reside outside of Hoopeston. **Contact Corey at 217-397-2250 or 217-283-5515 for an insurance quote.**
We are pleased to welcome Corey to Agencies.



Email: publish@justthefacts.net Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
Just the Facts *Louridine Florek, Owner*
Thursday, January 4, 2024
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net



File photo

Demolishing dilapidated buildings could make way for new growth in Hoopeston's downtown.
Downtown restoration keeps focus on positive in 2023

It's difficult to find one word that sums up Hoopeston in 2023. In large part, a single word would depend on what one focuses on.

For example, looking at the downtown and its multiple dilapidated buildings, a person might chose words like "poverty," or "decay."

Others look on a brighter side and are fighting back against the negative image, focusing instead on "Regeneration."

A quiet pushback is being waged by downtown business owners who are banding together to promote each other's businesses in an effort to attract more customers.

2023 saw the formation of Visit Downtown Hoopeston, Inc., a registered not-for-profit corporation, with Emily Brown as its registered agent.

The group was registered in August and has a presence on Facebook, where it updates sales, special events and other activities at downtown businesses. Its Facebook

page says "Visit Downtown Hoopeston is a group of downtown business owners in Hoopeston, IL dedicated to supporting each other and building up our historic downtown."

Downtown Hoopeston is quickly developing into an up and coming destination with unique shopping and dining," and urges people to follow the page "to get all the updates on our beloved downtown Hoopeston businesses and events in the downtown area."

Then, too, the downtown had a small explosion of new businesses this year, with the addition of two shops offering collectibles, a candy shop and a tire business.

The Lorraine Foundation, owner of the theaters and two other buildings on Main St., lost two tenants this year. Stay Awhile moved to Rt. 9 and expanded its offerings to include ice cream. The second, Main Street Parlor, closed its doors next to the Little Lorraine but is planning to see 2023 on other side

A Look Back At
2023

Farewell Scholarship Dinner
 for
Katie Coffey Miss Hoopeston 2023
 will be held
Saturday, January 6, 2024 5-8 p.m.
First Church of God
 1004 E Orange St.
Serving Taco, rice, beans, dessert & drink

LITHGOW AUTOMOTIVE
 1121 S. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston
 217-283-5171
 **Carquest Auto Parts Store**
Automotive Service Center
 Our services include tune-ups, brake jobs, new tires, code check, general auto repairs & more!
www.LithgowMotorSports.com

Special of the MONTH



879 While Supplies Last!
 Ultra-Tough 1.88" x 30 yd.
Black Duct Tape
 406780 January

Olympic Hardware
 516 N. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston
 (217) 283-5186 Open Sundays 

Briefly

At the Library

2024 Reading Challenge is now open. Each month of the new year will have a specific theme or genre. Pick (and read) a book that fits a specific theme and get a special gift. Anyone who has a book in mind that matches the monthly theme may choose to read it. Books read do not have to come from the display. The display is to encourage people to join in and help with book choice.

Those who meet all the monthly challenges will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card from a local business.

Builders Club, 3:30 p.m. Thursday. For kids of all ages. Free building, challenges, buddy builds and more!

DAR meeting, 1 p.m. Friday

Mary Hartwell Catherwood Book Club, 1:30 p.m. Monday. The selection is *Finding Me: A Memoir* by Viola Davis

City Talk, an informal get-together with Mayor Jeff Wise, 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

For more information on library programs, call (217) 283-6711 or visit 110 N. Fourth St.

Moms' group

Moms, come meet other moms and their children at

10 a.m. the first Friday of each month at the Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. The goal is to build friendships for moms and their children. For information, call/text Somer at (309) 242-5017.

Special GriefShare

A special session of GriefShare, covering the unique pain of losing a spouse, will be held January 7 from 2-4 p.m. at Milford Christian Church. A full GriefShare series starts on Wednesday, January 10. Both will be at 811 E. Hickory, Milford. All sessions are free and open to the public, but for the full series, pre-registration at 815-889-4474 is requested so adequate materials can be provided. However, no one will be turned away. Leave message if no one is available to take your call.

Bulk garbage day

Bulk garbage day, for Hoopeston residents only, will be held from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at Hoopeston City Hall parking lot. Residents are limited to one load per bulk day and must unload their own load or bring someone to help.

Dumping of electronics, appliances, paint, liquids, tires, batteries, yard waste, construction/demolition material or anything that fits in the provided blue totes is not allowed.

in Danville, Watseka and Rantoul, but did not include Hoopeston.

Other highlights from last year included:

- Hoopeston water/sewer ran a close second to crumbling buildings in the number of stories for 2023. Among them was approval of a \$3 million loan to upgrade and repair the water system and water treatment plant. The grant was originally to include main replacement on Market from Main to Honeywell, but due to rising costs, that part of the project will not be done with loan funds.
- Water and sewer rates were hiked 25 percent in 2023 and will see a 20 percent increase this year to keep the department in the black.
- Hoopeston Area School District generated interest with the addition of two electric buses to its fleet. The buses were delivered November 1. An EPA grant paid for the busses and charging stations. Through a \$748,892 grant.
- Longtime children's librarian Carol Arnold was honored when the children's library was renamed the Mrs. Arnold Children's Room in October.
- Incorporated in 1938, the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce folded in 2023.

Items from apartments with a dumpster will not be allowed and items from businesses and contractors will not be permitted.

Lights out

Volunteers plan to take down the Christmas lights at McFerren Park on Saturday. Anyone interested can meet at the park office at 8 a.m. For questions call Russ at (217) 283-9336.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 2:11 p.m. Monday to a vehicle vs. power pole accident at N 90 East Rd. and 4200 North Rd. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters were called at 10:20 p.m. Monday for a report of smoke inside a residence in the 600 block of West Orange. No injuries were reported.

From the Blotter

Barbara A. Shields, 48, of Goodwine, was ticketed after a traffic stop at 11:23 p.m. Saturday at Rt. 1 and West Elm. Cited with operating vehicle with expired registration plates or sticker, she was issued a notice to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Samantha L. Devore, 24, of Georgetown, was ticketed after a traffic stop at 12 a.m. Sunday at Rtes. 1 and 9. She was cited for disobeying a traffic control device (stop sign) and released.

Pantoja Zavaleta, 33, of Hoopeston, was ticketed with no valid driver's license and operating an uninsured vehicle after a traffic stop at 8:43 p.m. Sunday.

He was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 1:30 p.m. Monday in the 400 block of West Washington.

Police said Emil H. Michaels, Jr., of Hoopeston, was exiting a driveway in a 2005 Chevrolet when he struck an eastbound 2012 Kia, driven by Raven N. Rutherford, also of Hoopeston.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 35. Tonight, increasing clouds. Low 22. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of snow late. High 37, low 29.

For real time Hoopeston weather information, go to justthefacts.net/weather/.

Obituaries

MOORE - James Albert "Jamie" Moore, 49, formerly of Hoopeston, died December 28, 2023 at his home in Mishawaka, Ind. Graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. January 6 at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to [Hoopeston Animal Rescue Team](#) or a church of the donor's choice.

Death Notices

NEELAND - Eva Neeland, 90, of Rossville, died at 8:56 p.m. Monday, January 1, 2024, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Court Dispositions

November 8

Lisa D. Irvin, Hoopeston, general nuisance fine paid in full, case closed.

Correction

Due to incorrect information provided to Just the Facts, the hourly wage for tipped staff was incorrect in Friday's issue. The correct amount is \$8.40 per hour.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at silgancontainers.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/silgan/job/Mechanic_R174.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring for 2nd Production Machine Operators, \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com Applications available onsite. EOE

East Lynn Fertilizer is looking for a full-time custom applicator. Competitive Pay. Health Insurance & Retirement Plans. Apply in person at 41284 S Main St. East Lynn, IL.

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

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.

Email publish@justthefacts.net
or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!

2023 continued from other side

ning to reopen its candy and soda business after updating its new location at 109 E. Main, next door to Pizza King.

Soon, there will be more room for businesses or other entities in the downtown, as nine structures are slated for demolition. That work began last week at the former Hoopeston Food Locker and is expected to continue this week with buildings in the 200 block of East Main, east of the Doyle Law Office and south on Market to include two buildings south of the former Kelley's Pub. The former Lester Drugs, which was boarded up last year, is also slated for the wrecking ball.

In the 300 block of East Main, the former Chronicle building is set to also be demolished.

The price to remove the decrepit structures is \$473,400 and will come from the city's tax increment financing (TIF) fund.

In other business news last year, a new Tractor Supply store opened in the former Pamida building at Hoopeston Plaza while Express Lube, also in the plaza, closed.

According to reports, a larger oil change business purchased the chain of Express Lubes, including ones