



The City of Lanark, Illinois

Fall 2013 Newsletter

August 29, 2013

It's Not That Easy: Building Cleanup

There has been a lot of talk about the building at 101 N. Broad St. that collapsed last year.

Yes, the City IS working on it. But, it is not as easy as many may think.

First, there was a question of who owned the building. The property (and the building next to it at 105) had been passed between people and trusts and there were other parties trying to take over the property by paying back taxes. The City had to go to court to take over ownership of the properties. This was finally completed a few months ago and the City now has the deeds to both.

At one point, the City selected a bid to remove the rubble and small addition in the east side on the 105 building that is deteriorating. After taking a closer look, the contractor told the City he was worried the 105 building may not be stable enough and collapse if the cleanup was done.

105 and 107 N. Broad St. are actually one building separated only by a common staircase. There is no supporting wall dividing the two. So if 105 fell, there is a strong possibility that 107 would fall too. 107 N. Broad St. is Isenhardt Realty. The contractor would not proceed unless the 105 building was shored up. So, that plan was halted.

In the meantime, the 105 building was inspected for mold and the mold damage was quite extensive. Estimates to remediate the mold, repair the roof, remove the damaged addition, shore up the south wall of the 105 building, and finally, clean up the rubble; it could cost more than \$300,000. And that would only bring 105 up to a shell. If a business wanted to use it, they would need to do a complete renovation to the interior.

The next issue is the possibility of asbestos. No one knows for sure if there is any asbestos in the pile of rubble. The debris could be hauled to any landfill that would accept it; however, an inspector would need to be onsite looking for any sign of Asbestos. If any were found, the debris would need to go to a special landfill that would cost much more.

Another option would be to install a new exterior wall on the south side of 107 N. Broad St. and then demolish 105. This would be another extremely costly endeavor.

CONTINUE > > >

In This Issue:

- Building Cleanup
- Upcoming Events
- City Officials

Important Phone Numbers

City Hall
 (815)493-2431
 Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 9am-5pm
 (closed 12:30-1:30)
 Council Meetings: First & third Tuesday of the month

Fire/Police Emergency
 911

Police Non-Emergency
 (815)493-6931

Fire Non-Emergency
 (815)493-2341

Maintenance
 (815)493-6832



[It's Not That Easy \(continued\)](#)

Yet another option would be to demolish both 105 and 107 buildings. This would leave three clear lots that a developer could build to their specifications instead of trying to fit into an existing building. The City would require the look of the façade to be approved by the Council to ensure it fits with the historic look of our downtown. With this option Isenhardt Realty would be without a home.

So, the City must carefully decide what is the best solution for the aesthetics of the downtown, what is best for business development downtown, what is best for Isenhardt Realty, and the most cost effective solution for the taxpayers of Lanark.

Negotiations are ongoing with the stakeholders, developers, contractors, engineers, and the Illinois EPA. The City is also searching for grant opportunities to lessen the burden on the taxpayers.

We are working on it. But it's just not that easy.

[Upcoming Events](#)

FARMERS MARKET - Every Tuesday, 3pm-6pm in the Lanark City Park. June 11 - Oct 22

Lanark Hometown Day / EPC Homecoming
Oct. 10 - 12

Thursday Oct. 10 - Lanark Chamber of Commerce Hometown Cookout at the Heritage Center. Proceeds go toward Eastland Scholarships.
Eastland/Pearl City Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally in Lanark.

Friday Oct. 11 - EPC Football vs. Durand in Pearl City.

Saturday Oct. 12 - EPC Homecoming Dance in Pearl City.

Great Rte 64/84 Shop Hop
Nov. 1, 2, 8 & 9

RECYCLING DATES FOR 2013:

West of Broad St:
Sep 5 (Thurs), 18
Oct 2, 16, 30
Nov 13, 27
Dec 11, 26 (Thurs)

East of Broad St:
Sep 11, 25
Oct 9, 23
Nov 6, 20
Dec 4, 18



[City Officials](#)

CITY OF LANARK

Mayor:

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