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Hoopeston may have to repay TIF fund overpayments

Hoopeston and Vermilion County officials will meet Thursday to determine if the city has to repay overpayments made to the tax increment financing (TIF) fund.

The city may have to pay \$35,000 to as much as \$120,000, said Mayor Chalmers Flint at Tuesday's city council meeting.

An error, reportedly caused by miscommunication between county departments, resulted in money being put in the wrong fund. Tax money that should have gone to taxing bodies such as the school district, township and library, was placed in a collector's account at the county for Hoopeston's TIF.

The mistake came to light in August. At that time, Hoopeston Area Superintendent Mark Conolly estimated the district received approximately \$112,000 less than it should have from real estate taxes paid in 2000 and 2001. Head librarian Lou Graham said the library district had been shorted \$6,600. No township figure was available.

TIF reimbursement guidelines were expected to be discussed at Tuesday's council meeting but the issue was tabled. "I don't want to make any TIF commitments until we know where we stand," Flint said.

In unrelated business, the council unanimously approved participating in a new general insurance program through the Illinois Municipal League.

The Min/Max program will allow the city to save about \$15,000 annually in costs for things like Workman's Comp and liability, said Alderman Bill Goodwine, city finance committee chairman.

Currently, the city pays \$104,000 for general insurance with the Municipal League. Under the Min/Max program, the cost will decrease to \$89,000. The downside is that if city claims go above \$60,000, the city would be responsible for an additional \$30,000, Goodwine said.

In the last five years, claims have gone over \$60,000 once, in 2001, when a tornado resulted in \$373,000 in claims. Claims may be over \$60,000 this year, as well, but Goodwine said as long as claims fall under \$60,000 at least every other year, the city will spend less. "The odds are with us and we're not betting the town on it because the most we'd have to pay is \$30,000," he said.

Other action Tuesday included giving city employees another day off.

In a 5-3 vote, the council approved adding Veterans' Day as a paid holiday, giving employees 13 holidays plus their birthdays as paid days off.

Aldermen Goodwine, Hamilton and Lotz voted against adding the day.

Prior to the vote, Goodwine said he believes employees would prefer more money to another day off. Looking at workers with more take-home pay "is a big dissatisfier," he said. Also, employees must consider the total wage package, which includes salary, days off and insurance. While many employers pay more, they offer only seven or eight paid holidays, he said.

In unrelated action, the council:

- approved spending \$7,750 over budget in the police department to pay for a 2004 Chevrolet Explorer with 4-wheel drive. The department already has \$10,000 accrued for a new vehicle, said Alderman Ed Lotz, police committee chairman. The vehicle is \$300 more than a standard squad car and will be used as Chief Mark Drollinger's vehicle and as needed by officers in the winter. Drollinger's current car will be become a squad car, Lotz said.
- approved a \$30,000 revolving loan for Hooterville Junction, to be repaid in seven years at five percent interest. Payments will begin in January, Goodwine said. The money is expected be used for inventory and cash flow.

New shipment Peace Lilys

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Bowling Scores



Thursday Night City Men's League 10/23/03

1.	Tax Service Plus	38	18
2.	Pla-Mor Lanes	38	18
3.	Con Agra Store Foods	35	21
4.	Lawson Products	33	23
5.	Team America	30	26
6.	Lazer-N-Lights	30	26
7.	P.V. Snow Removal	14	42
8.	Team 8	2	54

High Team Handicap Game: Lawson Products 871, Team America 852, Con Agra Store Foods 841; High Team Handicap Series: Team America 2,511, Lawson Products 2,472, Pla-Mor Lanes 2,461; High Individual Scratch Game: Todd Underwood 256, Ronnie Cappellano 234, Ron Cappellano/Russell Reed 230; High Individual Scratch Series: Jeremy Lane 636, Dave Hughes 634, Rich Cappellano 617.

Hall of Shame: Joe Perez 109, Don Coffey 112, Lenny Coffey 113, Matt Carl 111.

Friday Night Mixed League

Standings 10/17/03

1. Last Minute 36 13

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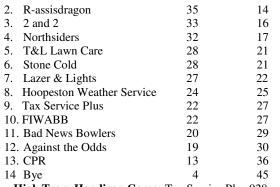
P.S. Huge Plus Size women's clothing sale Friday, Nov. 14 - 11 a.m.-7 pm.

Jackpot Bowling Mixed Couples

9 Pin No Tap

Sat. Nov. 8 Check-in 7:30 Bowl 8:30 \$15/person plus \$5 one-time entry fee.

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High Team Handicap Game: Tax Service Plus 928, Last Minute 876, T&L Lawn Care 864; High Team Handicap Series: Tax Service Plus 2,553, Last Minute 2,547, R-assisdragon 2,368; Men's High Scratch Game: Shaun McMillan 259, Jeremy Lane 248, Tony Gress 245; Men's High Scratch Series: Brandon Hamilton 662, Tony Gress 662, Jeremy Lane 629; Women's High Scratch Game: Glenda Reed 221, Debbie Winters 209, Nancy Alder 200; Women's High Scratch Series: Glenda Reed 593, Debbie Winters 541, Lori Owens 517. **Hoopeston Women's Bowling League**10/27/03

		10/2//03	
1.	R&R Body Shop	26	6
2.	Henning's	20	12
3.	Royal Bs	18	14
4.	Adda Girls	18	14
5.	Gillins Oil	17	15
6.	BJ's Pump	17	15
7.	Family Circus	17	15
8.	Weber's Drugs	16	16
9.	Off the Wall	14	18
10.	Yaden-Rethelford	14	18
11.	Unger's Jewelry	11	21
12.	Bye	4	28

High Team Handicap Game: Weber's Drugs 1,047, R&R Body Shop 1,027, Adda Girls/Royal Bs 1,025; High Team Handicap Series: R&R Body Shop 3,016, Yaden-Rethelford 2,955, Unger's Jewelry 2,942; High Individual Scratch Game: Karen Porth 203, Candis Clayborn 201, Shelly Snyder 198; High Individual Scratch Series: Glenda Reed 560, Karen Porth 559, Mona Birch 543.



Police News



Charles D. Landers, 36, of 105 S. Bank, was arrested at 10:30 a.m. Monday in the 100 block of South Bank.

He was charged with criminal damage to property on a complaint from a 38-year-old woman who alleged Landers threw an unknown object at her car, damaging it

Landers was released on a notice to appear.

Linda S. Drollinger, 38, of 648 E. Young, was ar-

rested at 12:40 p.m. Monday in the 100 block of South Bank.

She was charged with criminal damage to property and trespass to property on a complaint from a 36-year-old man who alleged Drollinger threw a paint gun, with paint attached, at him, getting paint on him and a vehicle parked nearby.

Drollinger was released on notices to appear.



New Books at the Library

Non-fiction:

Understanding Terrorism: a Psychosocial Roots Consequences, and Interventions edited by Fathali M. Moghaddam and Anthony J. Marsella

Obituaries

ALT - Evelyn R. Alt, 74, of Hoopeston, died at 7:29 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2003 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Arrangements are pending at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home.

The Secrets of Wildflowers: a Delightful Fest of Little-Known Facts, Folklore and History by Jack Sanders Attracting Birds to Your Backyard: 536 Ways to Turn

Attracting Birds to Your Backyard: 536 Ways to Turn Your Yard and Garden into a Haven for Your Favorite Birds by Sally Roth

Weather



Chance of showers today. High 51. Tonight, cloudy. Low 34. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 48, low 30.

For current weather conditions, call (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

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AUCTIONS

Large Auction, Sat. Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m. Corner Rt. 9 & 2nd Ave., Hoopeston. Mr. & Mrs. Gene Carter are selling a 52-year collection of antiques, collectibles, furniture, appliances, household & kitchen items, hand & power tools, lawn & garden equipment. Also an extensive collection of campaign buttons dating back to 1896, 1845 and 1850; handmade quilts, 100-year-old kitchen cabinet, lots antique glassware. Far too much to list. For info, call DeWitt's, (217) 283-7161. Glynn Wolfe IL #040000225; Steve Wolfe, IL #040000226

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