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## Hoopeston Area 2000 tax levy, rate expected to increase

Hoopeston Area taxpayers are expected to see an increase in the district tax rate next year.

The tax rate is expected to be \$3.49 per \$100 assessed value, said district treasurer Don Dean.

The eight-cent increase means taxes on a \$60,000 home will increase \$16.

Despite the increase, Hoopeston Area continues to have the lowest tax rate in a three-county area, Dean said. The highest rate in Vermilion, Ford and Iroquois is \$5.69, with an average of \$4.65. The tax rate closest to Hoopeston Area's is \$4.07, he said.

Up from last year, the rate is lower than that paid by district taxpayers in recent years. The highest rate paid in the last nine years is \$3.61 in 1994. The lowest is the 1998 rate of \$3.41.

The estimated 1999 tax levy is \$2,360,000, up \$242,000, Dean said. Of that, \$46,000 is definite, an

"open levy" used to pay Social Security, Illinois Municipal Retirement and property insurance, he said.

The remaining \$196,000 will depend on the final equalized assessed valuation, which will not be known until spring 2000. If the EAV increases by a smaller percentage, the amount will decrease, he said.

A public hearing will be held on the levy at the Dec. 16 meeting.

In unrelated action, the board:

- seated new members Mark Eighner and Mike Pemberton.

- named Larry Lobb school board president, replacing outgoing president Ed Layden Jr. Jeff Stipp was named vice-president. Steve Unger was re-elected secretary.

- hired Ginger Samet as a personal aide at Maple School and Beth Thrasher as personal/teacher aide at Maple and Honeywell schools.

## City enlarges TIF district, makes preliminary designations

Hoopeston's proposed tax increment financing (TIF) district got a little larger Monday night.

The Hoopeston city council met with Eric White of Economic Development Resources, a St. Louis-based consulting firm which is helping the city establish a TIF district.

The district, which encompasses areas along Routes 1 and 9, as well as the downtown and farmland east of Euclid, was altered to include unimproved property south of Route 9 owned by Ed Lockhart, and land on Sixth Ave. owned by Chiquita/Friday Canning.

The Lockhart land includes only that which has not been sold for single family homes.

After approving the additions, the council and White discussed how each parcel of land would best be used. Downtown areas will remain commercial, as will par-

cels along Routes 1 and 9. Residential areas are slated for land east of Euclid and a parcel north of the lagoons on Sixth St. That area is also slotted to include commercial and light industrial development.

The possibility of earmarking Hoopeston Industrial Corporation property for residential development was discussed, then dismissed.

"With the landfill road, it's hard to look at it as residential," Alderman Bill Goodwine said.

White said since the property has been marketed as an industrial site "that makes perfect sense to keep it as light industrial."

The council would, however, like to see the property frontage as commercial, to go along with the Casey's General Store and Hoopeston Car Wash already there.

**See TIF on other side**

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11 a.m.-5 p.m.

## LORRAINE THEATRE

**Starts Wednesday!**  
**Screen 1 – “Pokémon, the Movie”** (G)  
7 p.m. nightly, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday  
**Coming Friday at Screen 2:**  
**“The Story of Us”** (R)  
“The World is Not Enough”  
(James Bond) starts Friday, Nov. 19



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**TIF** continued from other side

The designations are what the council would like to see in the areas, not necessarily what is already there, White stressed.

For example, the council would like to see commercial development where Baer’s Trailer Court is located. However, unless someone purchases the land for that purpose, it will remain as it is.

Should someone purchase the property, underground remediation might be required, since the trailer park is situated on an old landfill, aldermen said. Money from the TIF fund could be used to help pay those costs, White said.

The TIF fund will be created from tax money. The difference between existing taxes and increases due to improvements will be placed in a special fund. The money can be used to recoup costs associated with forming the district and other projects within the district’s boundaries, White said.

### Police News



**Two canes** were reported missing Monday from Floral Hill Cemetery. The canes, valued at \$30, were taken between Nov. 1 and 8.

**Robert L. Clayburn**, 27, of 426 N. Fourth St., was arrested at 11:35 p.m. Monday, charged with battery on a complaint from a 17-year-old man.

Clayburn was released on a notice to appear.

**Police are investigating** a hit-and-run accident reported Tuesday.

Paul Desper of Hoopeston reported that an unknown vehicle hit his 1983 Mercury sometime in the past two weeks.

### Obituaries

**MOORE**—“Mattie” Moore, 85, of Hoopeston, died at 9:33 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8, 1999 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour before services at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home, 701 E. Orange St., Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Although a deal for residential development east of Euclid is near, Alderman Drew Allen said the city must do something about “blighted industry” in the city. “We’re too far away to be a bedroom community. To me, there’s got to be something done about (improving industry).”

White agreed. The industrial parcels “are the pieces that need to be pushed,” he said. The TIF, he said, will be an added tool to use in attracting or retaining jobs. “TIF incentives are powerful,” he said. Sometimes that’s the difference in making the project work.”

Such incentives can also come from the TIF fund and may include things such as repairing structures, installing water lines at no cost to the firm, or anything else short of new construction of a building, White said.

With the boundaries set and proposed uses in place, the city must now make projections of associated costs, finalize paperwork, hold a public hearing and meet with representatives of taxing bodies which will be affected by the TIF.

It must also market the district, White said. “The suc-


### Briefly

**Tiny Tots**

“I Knew An Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly” will be the theme of this week’s Tiny Tots story program.

Tiny Tots begins at 10:30 a.m. Friday in the Hoopeston Public Library children’s room. It is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

### In the Hospital



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
**Nov. 8**  
**Admitted:** Jose Cantu, Hoopeston.  
**Discharged:** none.

### Weather




Cloudy today. High 65. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 54. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 62, low 38.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

cessful TIFs in the state are the ones that are marketed, he said. “You can’t sit around and wait for the TIF fairy to come along.”

## Buffet

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