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**Have a bang-up
Independence Day weekend at
Pla-Mor Lanes**

Thursday, July 4

Watch the Fireworks from the outdoor beer garden. DJ 8:30-12:30

Friday, July 5

Band - Big Giant Head
8:30-12:30

Saturday, July 6

DAYTONA

Pepsi 400 NIGHT RACE on the BIG SCREEN in the OUTDOOR BEER GARDEN

Pick 1st & 2nd place drivers, **win \$50!**

Pick 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place drivers, **win \$100!!!**

NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED

Must pick drivers before green flag drops.
Must be present to win. Must be 21.

Free outdoor pool table and sand volleyball all weekend!

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

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Thursday, June 20, 2002

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www.justthefacts.net

Hoopeston City Council approves 6% telephone taxes

Reaching out and touching someone will get a little more expensive in Hoopeston.

The Hoopeston City Council on Tuesday approved two telecommunication taxes that will cost residents a total of six percent more on their phone bills.

The council approved a municipal telecommunications tax, which will add five percent to the gross bill and the telecommunication maintenance infrastructure fee of one percent.

The two taxes will be combined into one tax next year, called the Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax.

With the tax passed, the city will now identify phone companies - both those that provide local and long distance service and cell phone companies - who will collect the tax and give the money to the city. When

the new act becomes effective Jan. 1, companies will turn the money over to the Illinois Department of Revenue which will then pay the city.

The tax "is basically a sales tax on telephones," said Alderman Bill Goodwine, adding a Municipal League representative estimated the city could receive about \$7,000 monthly, based on population.

That figure could be lessened if other taxing bodies and senior citizens request a rebate on their taxes. According to the Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax Act, the council may, by separate ordinance, rebate any or all of the tax paid by other taxing bodies such as school and library districts, as well as for residents aged 65 or older.

In other business, the council discussed a proposal to

Rossville trustees consider new Christmas decorations

ROSSVILLE—Red and white candy cane Christmas decorations in the village may be a thing of the past if officials can come up with money for replacements.

Trustees are considering replacing the canes with Christmas-themed banners at a cost of \$3,600. The village will ask the Cadle Foundation for help with the cost, said Trustee Mike Clutter, public improvements committee chairman.

Clutter, who has been looking at replacing the decorations for several months, said new ones are all lighted and start at a cost of \$240 each. "There's nothing like our candy canes," he said.

Refurbishing the canes would cost \$80 to \$90 each, Clutter said. While the red in the canes is still bright, the white has faded. "Yellow and red is not my idea of Christmas colors," he said.

In other action, the board:

- approved parade permits for the Rossville American Legion for July 4 and Veterans' Day. The July 4 parade will be from 11-11:15 a.m. and will travel from Green to Stufflebeam.

The Veterans Day parade will be from 10:45-11 a.m. Nov. 11 from Green to Davis.

- approved a request from the Beta Club to collect money at the four-way stop this Saturday. Funds will be used for a trip to a national convention.

- hired John Edenburg as a part time police officer.

- reminded residents that village employees will pick up appliances on Thursday and Friday before Saturday's all-town cleanup day.

Appliances will be picked up beginning at 7 a.m. and should be out by 6:30 a.m. Thursday.

Hoopeston Rock Service

Rock: ¾" 1¼, 2". Plus landscape rock, pea gravel, sand, road pack.

Delivery/spreading available. Hours by appointment.

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North Fork Conservation Club

Fish Fry

Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
At the club

Fish, chicken, shrimp & clam dinners
plus 2 sides **\$5.50**



**GRAND REOPENING
THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH**

**A Vision Wellness
Celebration!**

Come see our newly remodeled and updated eye care facility at 851 E. Orange Ave. in Hoopeston.

There will be tours, refreshments, food, door prizes, and doctors will be available to answer questions. *Everyone is welcome!*

5:30-8 p.m.

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The Professionals Who Care For Your Eyes

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Fish Fry

5-8 p.m. Friday

American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Fish Dinner \$5.50 Shrimp Dinner \$6.50,



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See COUNCIL on other side

Council continued from other side

annex land owned by Larry Petry into the city. The land, east of Euclid, was to be in the original tax increment financing (TIF) district. However, the property was never annexed, said city attorney William Nelson. The property is "the reason the TIF district was formed in the first place," he said.

When the TIF district was formed, the Petry property was a key component because Petry had signed an agreement with developer Jack Piper to turn the farmland into a residential area. Piper would receive benefits from the TIF that would make developing the property more attractive. However, if the land is not in the TIF district, there would be no development incentives.

Nelson said Petry will not agree to annex the property unless city officials sign a pre-annexation agreement that "imposes some substantial obligations on the city." The document "ties you up with Mr. Piper and his company," he said. Petry wants some guarantee that the property will be developed before he agrees to pay



Police News



Heidi LaBounty, 30, of 404 E. Washington, was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident at 5:01 p.m. Tuesday.

Police said LaBounty, in a 1998 Jeep, approached the intersection of Rtes. 1 and 9 and did not see a that a 1999 Chevrolet driven by Sharon Polson of 526 W. Elm, was stopped to turn right.

No injuries were reported.

Timothy E. Coon, 24, of 330 W. Washington, turned himself in to police at 6:22 p.m. Tuesday.

Coon, wanted on a Vermilion County traffic

Obituaries

VERLEY - Michael Adam Verley Jr., infant son of Michael and Tracy Lynn Miller Verley of Rankin, died at 12:22 a.m. Monday, June 17, 2002 at Gibson Area Hospital, Gibson City. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Wolfe Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Rankin. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour before services Friday at the funeral home.

city taxes on farm ground, he said.

Bloomington attorney Tom Jacobs, acting as the city's TIF attorney, is reviewing the agreement and will make a recommendation to officials.

Mayor Chalmers Flint said a new TIF district is being created, since other properties planned in the original map have since been annexed. Officials are also trying to sort out the tax rates for the district.

In unrelated business, the council:

- has applied for a Brownfield grant. If awarded, the grant, up to \$240,000, will be used for a phase one environmental study at Baer's Motel and trailer park, Flint said. Community Bank, which owns the former video store and gas station location at the intersection of Rtes 1 and 9, must agree to work with the city before the grant will be awarded, he said.

The study is necessary before the property can be sold. Flint said he hopes to attract a new motel to the location.

Nelson reminded the council that he cannot represent them in the matter because he represents the

warrant for failure to appear, was released on \$200 cash bond.

Two Indiana men were charged with having grass after police said they drove through the grass at McFerren Park.

James J. Mitchell, 21, of 6726S 200W, Boswell, and Isaac C. Larch, 20, of 5381W 650N, Ambia, were each charged with possession of less than 2.5 grams of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia after police received a citizen complaint of someone driving through the grass at the park. Police found the vehicle at West Lincoln and South Sixth Ave. Each man was released on a notice to ap-

Weather



Partly sunny, chance of showers, thunderstorms today. High 90. Tonight, partly cloudy, chance of rain. Low 65. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of rain. High 88. low 64..

For current weather conditions, call the Hoopes-

guardians of property owner Ora Baer.

- appointed a committee to explore creating a city web page. Aldermen Goodwine, Don York and Mike Eckersley were named to the committee.

- discussed a new, non-exclusive agreement between the city and cable television provider Interlink Communication Partners. An existing contract gives the city three percent of gross charges but the new one increases the amount to five percent. In 2001, the city received more than \$21,000, which would increase to more than \$42,000 with existing customers.

- heard from resident Max Page who asked the council to reconsider a planned increase in water rates.

Classifieds

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RUMMAGE SALES

106 E. Attica, (in alley) Rossville. Saturday, June 22, 7:30-? Antiques, bedroom suite, microwave, 3 stereos, VCR, lamps, kitchen items, much more.

501 W. Penn, Hoopeston. Saturday, 8-? Ladies blouses, shoes, knickknacks, lots of misc.

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