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We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the following people and businesses that were a major part in making this year's June 7<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> annual golf outing such a success:

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**We would like to thank those that sent give-away items for our golf enthusiasts**

Bricks & Ivy Sports	Chittick Family Eyecare
Hubbard Trail Country Club	Treasured Roots Flower Shop
Shore Wealth Management	Alfie & Karla Coon
Olympic Hardware	Jim Bowers - Bearing Distributors, Inc.

*If we have forgotten anyone, we are sorry. Thank all of you for your support of the Hoopeston Rotary Club.*

**We would also like to thank Miss Hoopeston, Lauren Linares, for spending the day with us and taking such good care of all the Hole 3 activities.**

Email: [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net) Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348  
 Just the Facts  
 Wednesday, June 26, 2019  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

# Bennett updates residents on legislative action at meeting

A group of area residents got a firsthand report on recent state government action at a meeting with state Rep. Tom Bennett (R-106) Thursday.

Bennett met with constituents at Hoopeston City Hall to review legislation that sailed through the legislature, thanks to the Democrats' super majority.

That legislation included an expanded abortion bill that declares abortion a "fundamental right"; higher taxes and fees on gasoline, vehicle registration, trucking registration and others; legalizing recreational marijuana, then creating a licensing fee to sell it, as well as a tax when purchased; a \$1 per-pack increase in the cigarette tax, licensing for casino expansion and



Illinois Rep. Tom Bennett makes a point at a Town Hall meeting Thursday at Hoopeston City Hall.

others.

Bennett said the session which ended June 2 was "the longest session I can recall" in his five years in office. The last Friday and Saturday before recess as negotiations between Democrats and the super-minority Republicans were in high gear, with Speaker Mike Madigan trading favor for job-creating bills in return for 20 Republican votes for casino expansion.

As one of the 20 who voted for casino expansion, "Am See BENNETT on other side

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**Bennett** continued from other side

I excited about it,” he asked. “Look at my face,” he said, scowling. Am I excited about it?”

Other issues Bennett addressed included:

**The legislator pay raise.** He said raises are in state statute. “The only way you don’t get it is to pass a bill to stop it,” he said.

**Improving infrastructure** through the 38-cent increase in the gas tax. In 2016, a law passed creating a “lock box” for transportation funds, including road repair. Money from the tax increase will be distributed among state, county, municipality and township road programs,

he said.

Gary Weinard, who served as Grant Township Road Commissioner and Vermilion County Board chairman, said the state should look at its regulations concerning projects. The state will pay \$1 million to rebuild a small bridge, but will not pay to use clean anhydrous tanks as culverts. “That tank will still be her in 100 years,” he said. “The bridge the state designed won’t be. It’s stuff like that that ties the hands of road commissioners of townships and counties.”

“I agree with every word he said,” replied Robert Geddes, Lovejoy Township road commissioner.

**The graduated “Fair Tax”** being pushed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker. In November 2020, Illinois voters will decide whether to amend the state constitution, which calls for a flat tax of 4.95 percent, to rates of 4.75% on those making up to \$10,000 per year to 7.95% on those earning more than \$1 million.

**Weather**

Mostly sunny then chance of thunderstorms today. High 85. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 66. Tomorrow, sunny. High 86, low 68.

Asked by rural Wellington resident Theta Lee if Republicans will put out information against the fair tax before the election, Bennett said ethics laws prohibit the from taking a stand on it. However, he believes groups will have an informational campaign against it.

**Bills that did not become law** this year. Several pro-

posed tax increases did not make it into law during the session, Bennett said. These include taxes on real estate transfers, bottled water, Netflix, Hulu and other streaming services, ride sharing, cable/satellite TV, mileage, plastic grocery bags, and a proposed \$120 million tax on beer, liquor and wine.

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**Classifieds**

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