

Bertha's C o r n e r



By
BERTHA PARSONS

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

Two little words that make a big difference. How often do you say Thank You? How often do you think someone should have said Thank You?

Busy you are, me too; food to cook, clothes to wash, bills to pay, a job to go to and at least 40 more things we should be doing. I just don't have time for Thank You.

Common sense, accountability, are really big words related to thank you. Common sense things to help us get through life. I love life, having a family, good friends I can count on, have fun with and be thankful for each one.

What is common about sense? Common means to understand that we should appreciate when someone helps us, gives a gift, does a favor or is nice to us. Did we say Thank You when the neighbor raked our leaves? Did you say Thank You when your spouse helped with the laundry? What about the attendant that bags your groceries or the mailman with extra mail he made sure gets in your box? Thank You!

Have you ever gotten a gift that you already have, or the gift is the wrong size or you just hate it? That is when common sense and a little humor really come in handy before a Thank You. I taught my children that no matter what Gramma gave them, they loved it and said, "Thank You." Many of you must be thinking, "That had to be over 100 years ago." Well, yes, it was a while ago. Nowadays we seem to be cautious, and not as sensible as back then. There was no choice, you always said "Thank You", even if Mom had to remind you. Funny how that worked then!

The commotion about Thank You is that it means a lot. It means I am thankful for YOU! What a nice thought! Forget the gift or the help but tell that person you are thankful for them by saying, "Thank You." Some days hearing those words could really put a smile on a friends or grandparents face! It could make a dark day brighter!

"We have smart computers, smart TV's, smart phones, smart cars. when will we start having smart people?"

Auntie Acid.

THANK YOU, every one of you, for making my life a joy! Happy, Happy, Thanksgiving!

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Hoopeston Area board approves 8.17 percent levy increase

Hoopeston Area school officials hope to see an 8.17 percent increase in the district's tax levy this year.

At its meeting Thursday night, Hoopeston Area School Board unanimously approved an 8.17 percent increase in the levy - the amount the district hopes to receive in property taxes.

In 2018, corporate and special purpose property taxes extended totaled \$3,777,416. That number could be \$4,084,786 if the levy - and equalized assessed valuation (EAV) - increases.

"If EAV remains the same, taxes will remain the same," said Mark Eighner, district business manager, at a public hearing on the levy, held immediately before the board meeting. "We're not paying taxes at eight percent."

The 2018 tax rate - the amount paid by property owners to taxing bodies - was \$5.06252, down from the 2017 rate of \$5.10082, according to the most recent audit figures.

The tax rate is made up of amounts in several funds. Some funds are capped by state statute or local referendum. The district education fund limit is \$2.9600 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Limits are also set on the building fund at .5000; transportation .2000; working cash, lease and fire prevention and safety .0500; and special education .0400.

For other funds, the district may levy the amount need-

ed. These include tort immunity, municipal retirement, social security and debt service.

Eighner said the 2019 tax rate will not be determined until April, but he expects a slightly higher EAV, which could result in a lower rate.

Hoopeston Area's EAV has had peaks and valleys for several years but since 2013, it has steadily increased, from \$62,310,537 to its current \$79,942,024.

Hoopeston Area is at the low end for property taxes among area schools, which range from Paxton at \$6.18973 per \$100 of assessed valuation, to Potomac at \$4.82069.

In other business, the board:

Approved Sarah Kelnhofer as a long term substitute while she is student teaching. Amanda Lugo as high school personal aide; and Brad Jones, eighth grade volleyball coach.

Approved resignations from Phillip Foley, middle school science teacher, effective November 14; Brittany Sizemore, bus driver; Sue Timm, Maple classroom aide; and Wade Clemmons, building/grounds supervisor.

Clemmons last day at Hoopeston Area was October 31. He accepted a position at Milford schools. "Milford got a good one," Eighner said of Clemmons at the meeting.

The board authorized a job posting and search for

See INCREASE on other side

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— Briefly —

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Bring a full team of six or come alone and join a smaller team. Cost is \$10 per person or join us for Pizza King personal pizza for an extra \$5.

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PEP potluck

Hoopeston United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main, will hold a Thanksgiving People Enjoying People potluck at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Main dish, drinks and table service provided.

Everyone is welcome to this free gathering!

Increase continued from other side

Clemmons' position as building and grounds maintenance supervisor and for a transportation and grounds supervisor.

Approved raises for the district administrative assistant and accounts payable clerk to keep in line with the negotiated salary increase of five percent.

Weather

Patchy fog then mostly sunny today. High 49. Tonight, rain. Low 41. Tomorrow, rain, breezy. High 57, low 34.

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