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## Second ward candidates want to jumpstart city economy

*Editor's note: This is the second in a series on candidates in the April 1 election. The series covers Hoopeston and Rossville city and school candidates.*

On April 1, voters in Hoopeston's Ward 2 will choose between candidates who each wants to perk up Hoopeston's sleepy economy.

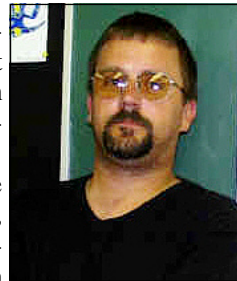
Incumbent Carl Ankenbrand hopes to retain the seat to which he was appointed in October. Jean Minick is challenging him.

Finding ways to make Hoopeston more presentable, employment, housing and bridging barriers between entities in the city are on Ankenbrand's list of issues facing Hoopeston. He would also like to work on ways to give youth opportunities within the city.

Strengths Ankenbrand said he brings to the council include youthfulness, creativity and an ability to step back and view both sides of a situation. "I'll try to do what's best for Hoopeston and its citizens because without families in Hoopeston, I wouldn't have a job," he said.

Ankenbrand teaches art at Hoopeston Area High School. He received a BS in studio art from Southern Illinois University in 1992. He and his wife, Kelly, have three children, Taylor Ankenbrand and Nathan and Samantha Phillips.

He was appointed to fill the unexpired term of former alderman Mike Eckersley who moved outside the city limits.



ANKENBRAND



MINICK

Jean Minick, 58, is running against Ankenbrand. She cut her teeth on local politics, helping deliver election packets door-to-door in Grant 4 when she was a child. Her father was a former Grant 4 precinct committeeman and her mother was a Grant 4 election judge. She has served as a Grant Township trustee, was local coordinator for the 2000 census and has worked as an election judge in Grant precincts since 1976.

Issues facing Hoopeston include overcoming apathy and economic development. "I would like to see the residents take an active interest in developing the future of the community," she said. "Currently the community seems to be in survival mode, with very little attention paid to building a solid, healthy environment."

Regarding economic development, Minick said she is working with the Visioning for the Future committee which, in conjunction with the Healthcare Mapping Committee, is working on a campaign to analyze the obstacles current businesses are experiencing. She would like to like with other groups that have access to businesses that want to relocate and believes the city should look at local job shops and businesses that might be able and willing to expand.

She is also anxious to work on the city's budget and said before decisions are made, the community should be informed about the problems, possible solutions and why a particular proposal may be the most likely to be decided upon. "We need to investigate avail-

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