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Hoopeston Ward 1 to have write-in candidate for council

Voters in Hoopeston Ward 1 will have an aldermanic candidate in the April 5 election.

Gail Lane has filed to run as a write-in candidate in the ward.

Lane, 53, currently serves as Hoopeston city clerk. She did not seek reelection to the position and decided to run as a write-in candidate after no other candidates filed to run as ward representative.

Lane graduated from East Lynn High School and earned an associate's degree in business and finance. She owns R&G Tax and Professional Services.

Financial matters are the biggest issues facing Hoopeston, the candidate said. Among those are the need to keep up city water and sewer lines and decreasing revenue, especially from taxes. "The tax base is not where we'd like it to be," she said.

While trying to attract industry to the community is an issue, Lane said the city must do things to help itself. "Improvements need to come from



LANE

within Hoopeston," she said.

For example, Lane currently rents a building for her business but plans this week to close on the purchase of another location which will eventually house her tax business, her sewing and alterations business and include space leased to another firm.

Also, as city clerk, Lane said there are ongoing issues with which she is familiar and would like to have a say in them.

Lane is upbeat about Hoopeston and said residents should focus on the positive. She mentioned the city's schools, which offer many educational and extracurricular programs, summer sports leagues for youth, a

Chamber to host forum

The Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce will give Hoopeston residents a chance to decide among candidates running in April 5 city and school elections.

The Chamber will host a candidates' forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31 at the McFerren Park Civic Center, said Chamber president Larry Baughn. The event is expected to include candidates for Hoopeston mayor and Ward 3 alderman along with Hoopeston Area School Board candidates. Other Hoopeston wards have no contests.

In the mayoral candidate portion, the four candidates will be asked four questions, rotating which candidate answers first, Baughn said. Each will then be given time for a closing statement.

A similar format will be used for other can-

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Rossville trustees approve first of three subdivisions, Tax Increment Financing consultant

ROSSVILLE—The Rossville Village Board gave its final stamp of approval to one of three planned subdivisions but not without dissension from some members.

Lots in Ridl's First Addition to the Village of Rossville will be available for purchase despite questions about some of the covenants attached to development there.

Trustee Mike Clutter questioned the necessary approval of an architectural committee to be made up of the Ridls and a representative from the village board. He questioned whether the committee would be familiar enough with construction to approve plans for homes. He also considered the possibility that someone could upset the committee and not be granted approval to build. A covenant in the agreement calls for homes to be built within two years of purchase of a lot or the buyer must pay a subdivision infrastructure fee of \$10,000 in a lump sum.

Clutter and Trustee Mark Catron voted

See WARD 1 on other side

Ward 1 continued from other side

bowling alley, two theaters, a swimming pool, hospital and library. "We've got it all," she said. "We just have to work on ourselves. We need to be positive about ourselves."

Lane said she approached others in her ward about running for the council seat but was turned down. "I see a need," she said. "The saying is if you see a need, maybe you're the one to do it."

Write-in candidates must file by May 29 to

against approving the subdivision and, in a related matter, voted against hiring Beth Ruyl of Ehlers & Associates as a Tax Increment Financing consultant.

Under the agreement, the village will pay \$175 per hour, not to exceed \$250 per month or \$2,000 per report to Ruyl. "I don't know where you'd find someone more reasonable or more knowledgeable," said Mayor Terry Prillaman.

Catron suggested the board try to make former consultant Robert Vancil continue consulting work but Prillaman said Vancil's contract expired last year.

The issue was tabled last month after trustees failed to even make a motion to approve. However, at Monday's meeting, Trustee Richard Birkey said "we've got to move on. It's a new day."

Police News

A **35-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Monday that someone took her son's royal blue 24-inch Next mountain bike from her home in the 100 block of North Third St.

A **24-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Monday that someone took a Spiderman scooter from her home in Parkview court.

Weather

Chance of rain today. High 45. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 32. Tomorrow, chance of rain. High 54, low 43.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopes-

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Trustee Robert Merritt agreed. "It seems to me we need somebody to help us with the points that require a lawyer.," he said.

Trustees voting for each of the motions in-

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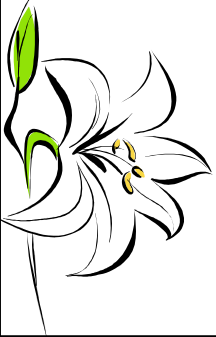
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