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Tuesday, March 31, 2015
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
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Three candidates run to represent Hoopeston's 4th ward

Editor's note: Three of Hoopeston's four wards have aldermanic contests for the April 7 election. Candidates in contested races were sent questionnaires. Information from those will be used to profile the candidate and their positions on issues. In today's final installment, Ward 4 candidates are featured.

Hoopeston Ward 4 voters have a choice of an incumbent and two challengers in the April 7 election.

Incumbent Brandon Hamilton, who has served since 2003, is being challenged by Jeramy Dobkins and Russell Hibma.

Hamilton, 41, sees several issues facing the city, including infrastructure, business retention/expansion, community image and housing.

Saying infrastructure issues don't come with quick, easy or cheap fixes, Hamilton said the city has adopted a proactive position on projects in a financially responsible way.

One example of infrastructure upgrades that have improved several areas is the upgraded water main from Main Street to the new nursing home on Route 1. By agreeing to the project, the city got the water main upgraded, helping to facilitate the building of Heritage Health, and resulted in repaving the majority of West Main. "This was a good project that has brought favorable results," he said.

Officials have an agenda to address the other areas, as well. "While it is quick and easy to jump to a negative attitude, as an alderman, the focus is to maintain a positive environment for growth and development in these areas," he said. "Positives develop positives."

For example, he said, working with Vermilion Advan-

tage brings additional resources to help the city broaden its scope and "keeps us objective to all business opportunities, as well as how the city presents itself. Ultimately, every resident and business owner has a part in this, but when the city maintains a positive environment, good things can happen." He cited Autumn Fields as an example of the city partnering with stakeholders that brought a positive to the community.

Hamilton called the sales tax issue "an opportunity for residents and visitors to further invest in the city," saying if passed, funds will be used in select municipal projects from which all residents will benefit. However, he said he understands why some oppose the idea. "As an alderman, pass or fail, I will support the voice of the residents and continue to move forward in the best interest of the city," he said.

Hamilton has a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's in marketing. He is employed by ThyssenKrupp Crankshaft Company in Danville.

Dobkins, 28, said keeping youth in Hoopeston is a concern, as are dilapidated buildings, infrastructure and fiscal responsibility.

"We have youth in this community that are presented with little options outside of our public school," Dobkins said. "We have great opportunity in our youth, but without a career to return to, many leave for college only to return as a visitor, not a resident," he said.

He is concerned about "a large scale income-based housing issue that has been allowed to spin out of control, leaving the city with the burden of eradicating dilapidated resi-

See WARD 4 on other side



HAMILTON



DOBKINS

Public and Media invited to
COMMUNITY FORUM
FOR 1% SALES TAX
 March 31 7 P.M. City Hall Chambers
Before you vote, be informed
 Email questions to
mayorhoopeston@yahoo.com
 or be recognized from the floor

The
Living Lord's Supper
 Portrayed by Men from our Community Churches
Wednesday, April 1 & Thursday, April 2
 7 p.m. each night
First Christian Church
 502 E. Main St., Hoopeston
 Handicapped accessible on 4th St. (north entrance)

Elect
Dustin Tarter
 Ward I Alderman
Let's move Hoopeston forward!
 I support and will work to create policies that encourage small business and small scale investment opportunities in our community.
Have questions? Please contact me at dustinforward1@gmail.com

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voted down once.
Vote NO on April 7!**

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Ward 4 continued from other side

dences.”

Additionally, roads, sidewalks, water and sewer systems are in need of great repair.

“We need to tackle as much of this as we can,” he said. “We should be asking ourselves: ‘Can we do some of this ourselves and save money?’ Fiscal responsibility on all fronts has to be a major part of investing in our infrastructure.”

As for the sales tax, Dobkins said he was initially skeptical of it, but since learning what will be exempted from the tax and where the money will be used, he now favors it to improve Hoopeston. Still, Dobkins said, he has reservations and would want a firm commitment from the city that the tax will be followed by stricter enforcement of ordinances regarding dilapidated houses and that funds would be used for “needs” and not “wants.”

“We have to look at our community in reality,” he said. “We have hemorrhaged good jobs and people for the past few decades. Our infrastructure is failing, our community has a relatively high crime rate and we are sticking band-aids on problems that require surgery. This will ultimately come back to haunt our children and

From the Blotter

Two juvenile boys were arrested after a third juvenile alleged the committed domestic battery against him. The incident occurred at 5:15 p.m. Sunday in the 700 block of Wyman.

The arrested boys were released to their parents on notices to appear in court.

Obituaries

CARTER - Kenneth Carter, 62, of Hoopeston, died Friday, March 27, 2015, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

COFFMAN - David Coffman, 80, of Hoopeston, died Sunday, March 29, 2015, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Weather

Sunny today. High 64. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 36. Tomorrow, sunny. High 65, low 51.

grandchildren.

Dobkins is a full time police officer and owner of Hoopeston Shooting Range; is a master firearms instructor and Illinois concealed carry instructor.

He is married to the former Ashley Lithgow. He is president of Hoopeston Jaycees and also volunteers with Save the Lorraine.

Hibma was unable to be reached for comment.

Briefly

No paper Monday

Just the Facts will not be printed Monday because of the Easter holiday.

Good Friday service

Hoopeston Ministerial Association will hold its community Good Friday Service of Worship at noon Friday at United Methodist Church of Hoopeston. All congregations and residents are invited.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Hoopeston Apt. - Handicap Accessible. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, freshly painted. All appliances, W/D hookup. Yard and full basement. Walk to shopping. No Smoking, No Pets. Available April 1. 626 S-8th Avenue. 217-260-8762. \$475 + deposit.

HELP WANTED

CVS Pharmacy is looking for full time shift supervisor. Shift is to carry out all opening and closing procedures in the absence of management. Also hiring part time pharmacy technician. Both positions have in-store training program. Please apply at CVS.com/careers.

Hoopeston Multi Agency has opening for Teen Reach director. Part time (25hrs./wk.) position. Bachelor's degree or equivalent in social work, recreation or working with children. Please mail resume and cover letter to 206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942, by April 8.

Administrative Secretary needed, Rossville United Methodist Church. 10 - 15 hours per week; Excellent people skills needed, knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets important. Position available immediately. If interested in applying, call the Church office and leave a message @ 217-748-6760, or email the Pastor @ carlmesiti@gmail.com

HOUSES FOR RENT

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