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Lourdine Florek, Owner

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Longtime alderman, two others seek Hoopeston Ward 2 seat

Just the Facts will spotlight candidates running in contested elections for Hoopeston Area School Board, which has contests for both in and out of the original Hoopeston School District, Hoopeston City Council, which has a contest in Ward 2, and Grant Township.

Two candidates are hoping to unseat a nearly 15-year Hoopeston City Council incumbent.

Carl Ankenbrand, who was appointed Ward 2 alderman in October 2002, is being challenged for a second time by Charles Strawser and also by Randy Wallace.

Ankenbrand, 52, sees several issues that should continue to be addressed by the city, including:

- Aging water/sewer infrastructure, which has begun being addressed with money collected from the \$10 per month user fees. Officials are also looking at grants and low-interest loans to pay for improvements.
- Run-down properties. Ankenbrand said ordinances must be strong enough to "go after" owners, which has not always been easy.
- Finding businesses to replace Shopko and Pizza Hut. Many people are working on the marketing of the properties, he said.

Ankenbrand would like to see more citizens attend council meetings and stepping up to make a difference in

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Hoopeston. He would also like to see improved communication from officials to residents about big changes in Hoopeston.

He praised new and not-yet-announced growth, including Save the Lorraine Foundation's improvements to the theater and new life for the Willdon Building, proposed improvements along Rt. 1 and citizens investing in the downtown with new ventures.

Keeping an eye on city finances will become more important than ever. "We have always been able to balance the budget," Ankenbrand said. "It's starting to get even trickier and possibly we may have to cut some things out or maybe think out of the box."

Ankenbrand has taught art in the Hoopeston Area school system for 22 years. "Although I was not born and raised in Hoopeston, I made a choice to move here for a job, live in the town I work in and I feel that I am vested

See WARD 2 on other side

Rossville water/sewer rates go up to fund equipment, expenses

ROSSVILLE—Rate increases will go into effect for Rossville water/sewer customers effective with the March billing, which will be mailed in early April.

The board approved the increases at its meeting March 20.

The minimum rate, for 0-2,000 gallons, will increase \$8, from 10 to \$18. Sewer minimum rates will go from \$8.60 to \$9.60.

Incremental increases for water consumption more than 2,000 gallons will increase 50 cents per 1,000 gallons.

The increase was established so funds can be available to purchase new fire hydrants and prepare to replace radio read water meters and establish surplus funds for future expenses.

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Ward 2 continued from other side

in the community.”

Some of his decisions may not always have been right, Ankenbrand said, but “I have learned from those mistakes, which has taught me to make sure I do my homework on issues because, as Jim Matta once told me, “You can’t believe everything you hear and only half of what you see.”

Charles D. Strawser ran against Ankenbrand four years ago and is giving it another shot. The 50-year-old is a Hoopeston High School graduate and attended DACC for landscape construction. He has worked at Carlson Landscape Service of Wellington for 26 years.

Businesses closing their doors and a lack of employment are the major issues facing Hoopeston, Strawser said. To change that, he would try to offer incentives for businesses to come to town, which would create jobs and more revenue for Hoopeston.

Another problem is houses that are sitting empty and falling apart. He said he would work to “try to get them before they get too far gone to do anything with.”

A lifetime Amvets member, Strawser has six children,

two of whom are still attending grade school.

Randy Wallace, 39, is also running for a four-year term representing Ward 2. Like his fellow candidates, he sees the loss of business as a major problem for Hoopeston. “I will work with council members to discuss what kind of incentive we can offer businesses to attract them to our city,” he said.

Flooding is another problem and he would again work with the council to discuss what action can be taken to solve it.

Wallace would also like to clean up Hoopeston, making it more attractive to new businesses and those visiting. He would work with the council to create a plan to repurpose or demolish abandoned buildings and homes. Sidewalks also need to be fixed and made handicapped accessible.

An employee of Silgan Containers, Wallace and his wife, Bre, have two daughters, Nyla and Indie. He has served as a coach for Hornets football and Little League baseball. He grew up in Hoopeston and has lived here most of his life.

New additions to bowling hall of fame to be feted at banquet

Six people will be added to the Hoopeston Bowling Hall of Fame during a banquet Sunday.

New members are Bonnie Chesnut, Laurie Wisdom, Nancy Lowe, Randy Chesnut, John McCormick and Robert (Bobby) Bruens Sr.

The banquet will begin at 1 p.m. at Fast Lanes. Tickets are \$20 per person and include the meal, which will consist of grilled chicken breast or Swiss steak, along with mashed potatoes, gravy and corn or green beans.

For more information, call Fast Lanes at (217) 283-6505.

Weather

Mostly cloudy today, tonight. High 59, low 40. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of showers late. High 57, low 41.



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From the Blotter

Matthew M. Minard, 20, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 6 p.m. Sunday after allegedly leaving two dogs unattended in a car for approximately nine hours. The incident occurred in the 300 block of West Penn.

Minard was charged with cruelty prohibited to animals and was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court. The dogs were taken into custody by Hoopeston Animal Control and will remain at the animal shelter until after the court date.

Anthony Chandler, 35, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 8:46 p.m. Sunday in the 900 block of West Penn. He was charged with domestic battery and criminal damage to auto over \$500 on a complaint from a 23-year-old Hoopeston woman.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

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