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Lourdine Florek
editor

Just the facts

Wednesday, March 15, 1995

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Aldermanic candidates square off on local landfill issue

Editor's note: In this second of a two-part series, Hoopeston aldermanic candidates address the question of the proposed landfill expansion and what might happen if the expansion is not approved. The questions were posed Thursday at Candidates' Night, sponsored by Just the Facts.

Perhaps the most divisive issue of the April 4 election is whether the Illinois Landfills Inc. site should expand its present 35-acre site to approximately 120 acres.

Of the eight candidates attending Candidates' Night, four support, or at least do not oppose, the expansion, while four have serious reservations.

Attending were Mark Drollinger and Danny Justice, vying for a two-year term in Ward 1; Dave Borders, Ron Justice, Dave Barker and Odell Crabtree, running for Crabtree's four-year seat, also in Ward 1; Tony Freeland and incumbent John Haughee, Ward 2; incumbent Susan Comstock and Tom Garrison, Ward 3; and in-

cumbent Lloyd Blackwell and Harold Cox, Ward 4.

Opponents cite the location, increased traffic and the fact that, if the expansion is granted, trash will come from a 31-county area, as reasons to vote against the issue.

Borders said the expansion's location, 20 feet above an aquifer, presents a potential danger. "I know we need a landfill," Borders said, "but we don't need it over our water supply."

Traffic is another reason Borders opposes the expansion, saying trucks will be in a hurry to leave the site and will cause traffic problems.

Haughee, who voted against the expansion when the issue came before the council, sees a need for a landfill, but not one covering 31 counties. Haughee said Hoopeston generates 18 tons of trash daily, while the landfill accepts 400 to 600 tons. "We're going at it the wrong way," he said,

See **LANDFILL** on other side

Briefly

Spuds available

Grant Township officials received a large donation of potatoes for commodities recipients. Potatoes may be picked up any afternoon at the Grant Township offices.

Business honored

The Wolfe Funeral Home of Westville is the first recipient of the Southeast Vermilion County Economic Enhancement Association's clean-up/fixup recognition program.

The funeral home was selected for its 1994 project, using brick pavers for use as an outdoor seat-

ing area. The area is decorated with 12 pots of red and white flowers, ferns and outdoor furniture.

Also cited work done since 1981, including renovating the interior, exterior painting, adding a chapel and expanding the parking area.

According to Scott Crawford, acting chairman of the SVCEEA, judging was based on attractiveness and scope of improvements, quality of the work, community impact and economic factors.

Wolfe Funeral Homes are also located in Hoopeston, Rossville, Rankin and Potomac.



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meeting

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Landfill continued from other side

adding that citizens should recycle as much as possible. "We don't need expansion as much as we need to educate ourselves."

Ron Justice is also against the expansion, saying water may be polluted. "I wouldn't want it on my conscience that Rossville's wiped out in 20 years," he said.

His son also is not in favor, citing affects on wildlife and surrounding farmers. Danny Justice also urged recycling as a means of reducing waste.

Of those favoring it, only Comstock was on the city council and voted for expansion, based, in part, on the company's pledge to open a state-of-the-art recycling center.

Comstock has no qualms about where garbage originates. "Garbage is garbage, where ever it comes from," she said.

Drollinger called the issue "the most important vote that's faced the city council in a number of years." An expanded landfill could, he said, be an asset to industries looking at Hoopeston. "I think it's in the best interest of Hoopeston to do this."

Freeland said the issue is up to the courts and may not come before the council again. His concern is that if the expansion is not allowed, ILI may close the local landfill and select a new site, raising local trash pick up rates.

That concern is shared by Blackwell, who talked about the low cost of local service. "You put out whatever you want and they take it," he said, adding if the landfill closes, costs will rise, possibly to as high as \$25. "Retired people can't afford that," he said.

Even opponents expressed concern over the possibility of the landfill being de-annexed from the city and its control.

ILI could request that its property be disconnected from the city. They could then apply for expansion through the county, giving the county not only control of, but also additional revenue from, the expansion.

"Someone should be watching the landfill all the time," Ron Justice said.

Freeland said "the need to expand is going to be an overriding consideration," adding ILI needs to recover its costs and will move if they can't. "If they can't expand here, they'll expand somewhere else."

Obituaries

BARNHART - Freda F. Barnhart, 80, of Alvin, died at 8:52 p.m. Sunday, March 12, 1995, at United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, Danville. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday at the Morrison Funeral Home, Bismarck. Burial will be in Bethel Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

McGUIRE - Millicent E. McGuire, 79, of Hoopeston, died Tuesday, March 14 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Graveside services will be 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

STANDIFER - The Rev. R.B. Standifer, 55, of Hoopeston, died at 7:45 a.m. Tuesday at home. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Westside Church of the Nazarene. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Saturday and one hour prior to services at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to the Westside Church of the Nazarene.

Clarification

It was omitted from Monday's story on the Hoopeston Area High School Show Choir that the group was named best choreographed and best horn line at the Watseka Invitational contest.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High near 70. Tonight, fair. Low near 48. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 67, low near 45.

Entertainment at Business Expo '95

Free Admission

Saturday, March 18
11 a.m. - Hoopeston Area Elementary Band & Chorus
Noon - Okinawan School of Karate
1 p.m. - Floral Demonstration by Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

Sunday, March 19
1 p.m. - Hoopeston Area Junior & Senior High Jazz Bands
2 p.m. - Hoopeston Area Junior & Senior High Show Choirs
3 p.m. Natural High

Sunday entertainment sponsored by Terminix
WHPO Business Expo
McFerren Park Civic Center, Hoopeston
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday Noon-4 p.m. Sunday

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Most Riders—\$39.95

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