

A VOTE FOR DAVID BORDERS IS A VOTE FOR THE CITIZENS OF HOOPESTON VOTE APRIL 1

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Sewers top list of concerns for three candidates in aldermanic race

Repairing the city sewer system is the top concern for three candidates vying for Ward 3 alderman.

The only difference is how to fix the problem.

Incumbent Drew Allen, chairman of the city's water/ sewer committee, believes the program currently underway, which increases capacity at the sewer plant but does not address the sewer main system, is the best solution at the present time.

Challengers Cliff Witty and write-in candidate Jeff Keith disagree, saying the need for increased capacity would be eliminated if storm water did not infiltrate the sanitary system.

Allen said the city's approximately \$3 million program of upgrading the sewer plant by increasing capacity alleviates problems with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency at less cost than replacing the sewer main system.

Allen admitted sewer mains should be replaced. "It's something that should have been looked at 20 years ago," he said. "It's a long process of plain deterioration."

However, he said, replacing the entire system could cost as much as \$10 million. "It's cheaper to increase capacity short-term and fix the system long-term" he

said.

Witty disagrees. "I think there's a lot more work that needs to be done, things they need to look at," he said. He also disagrees with the way the engineer was hired "by not taking bids, by not getting a second opinion" before work began. "Even though they're in phase one, I think we could seek out other engineers, get other opinions," he said.

Keith also disagrees. "I feel we're working on the end of the problem rather than the beginning," he said. The city should save the money from the planned repairs and put it toward fixing the sewer system throughout the city, he added.

Allen, 55, production manager at Stokely USA, has been on the council for approximately five years. Repairs at the sewer plant, as well as his involvement in building a new city hall, are things he has found gratifying about being on the council.

He is seeking re-election hoping to finish the sewer project through grants, leaving water rates at current

See CANDIDATES on other side

Candidates continued from other side

Letter to the Editor

Council member disputes campaign info Editor:

There seems to be some misinformation being put before the voters which needs to be set straight before the April 1 election.

In his letter printed in the March 21 Chronicle, mayoral candidate Dave Borders discusses National Microsystems, stating money from the city's revolving loan fund was used. This is untrue. The money loaned to Microsystems came from an accumulative fund of state

surcharge funds. Additionally, the decision to loan money to the company was unanimously approved by the city council after it was researched by two local financial institutions. Mayor Ault did not vote on the issue.

As for the company, Microsystems was in business in Hoopeston for approximately two years, with an average staff of 10 people who earned above-average wages. These employees put money back into the Hoopeston

See LETTER on other side

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Letter continued from other side

economy which benefited all of us.

Point two: regarding Hoopeston Foods. On June 20, 1995, the city council approved a resolution for a one-time special revolving loan be made, raising the limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000. This, too, was passed by a majority of the council. Again, Mayor Ault did not vote.

Point three: regarding Borders' claim that if elected, he will "eliminate the making of non-bid purchases and contracts for goods or services for the city." At the March 18 council meeting, Borders was among those unanimously approving purchase of a \$36,000 non-bid street sweeper.

Point four: Borders had pledged to "do all I can to eliminate the terrible smell that has plagued Hoopeston for years." That will not be necessary, since an analysis of lagoon water has been done and additives added to eliminate the odor. And, for the record, Borders voted against purchasing the lagoons and, if he had been in the majority, we would still have the odor.

Point five: regarding his plan to improve Hoopeston's sidewalks. The city has, for many years, had a sidewalk program in place, splitting the cost between the city and homeowners.

One further point: perhaps Alderman Borders would know more about existing city programs if he attended more meetings. Since taking his seat in May 1995, Borders has missed seven council meetings and

levels. Another project he would like to work to complete is repairing the city streets. However, he said, officials must prioritize their tasks. "It's one thing to say we need to do this and this and this," he said. "It's another thing to fund them."

Witty, 29, seeks the seat "because I'm not a hypocrite," he said. "I don't believe in (people) sitting in a bar or coffee shop and complaining about the city council if they're not willing to do something about it themselves."

Besides the sewer problem, another of Witty's

numerous committee meetings. Five of his missed council meetings were from May to November of 1996. Mayor Ault, on the other hand, has missed only one council meeting in eight years.

In closing, the choice is yours but know all the facts before you cast your vote April 1.

Susan Comstock Third Ward Alderperson

concerns is the lack of things for adolescents to do in Hoopeston. "I'm seeing more kids on the street," he said. "We need to find more positive ways for them to spend their time."

Witty works at Stone Container Corporation in Danville. Keith, 29, said officials must look at getting and keeping jobs in Hoopeston, and also must investigate programs that help low-income residents with things like prescription purchases. "We need to let them know that 'the city that cares about you' is not just a slogan," he said.

Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: No school.

TUESDAY: Chicken patty/bun, tator tots, cheese, cookie, orange.

WEDNESDAY: Hot dog/bun, French fries, slaw, pears.

THURSDAY: Ham & cheese/bun, corn, pudding, pineapple.

FRIDAY: Taco/shell, lettuce, tomato, cheese, cookie, apple slices.

Hoopeston Area High/Middle schools

MONDAY: No school.

TUESDAY: Chicken patty/bun or hamburger/bun, tator tots, cheese, cookie, orange.

WEDNESDAY: Hot dog/bun or Z rib/bun, French fries, baked beans, slaw, pears.

THURSDAY: Ham & cheese/bun or ravioli/meat sauce, tri tator, corn, pudding, pineapple.

FRIDAY: Taco/shell or turkey/bun, salad, cookie, apple slices.

Rossville-Alvin schools

MONDAY: No school.

TUESDAY: Hamburger gravy/biscuit, crispy gems, spicy apple slices.

WEDNESDAY: Pony shoe, peas, fresh strawberries. THURSDAY: Submarine/bun, California blend, fresh fruit salad, potato chips, chocolate chips cookie.

FRIDAY: Corn dog, crihspy fries, peach crisp, macaroni salad.

All meals include milk.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital March 26, 1997

Admitted: James Bailey and DeEtta Henk, Hoopestoon.

Discharged: Pauline Merino, St.Anne.

Weather



Showers today. High in the low 60s. Tonight, clearing. Low in the low 40s. Tomorrow, cloudy. High near 55, low near 42. Sunday, partly cloudy. High near 46, low near 35.

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