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 Lourdine Florek, owner

Fell, Tarter, Yaden vie for seat as city's Ward 1 alderman

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. Today, candidates in Ward 1 are featured.

Three men are vying for the opportunity to represent Hoopeston's Ward 1 in the April 7 election.

Incumbent Joe Fell is being challenged by newcomers Chad Yaden and Dustin Tarter.

Fell, 71, was appointed to the position in December 2012 and ran unopposed in 2013 for a two-year term.

A self-employed barber for more than 50 years, Fell attended Hoopeston High School and barber college after serving in the Navy.

If reelected, he said he will work to help improve infrastructure and redevelop the former Essex property. "We have made some major improvements and hoping it's just a beginning of what's to come" he said.

Fell became chairman of the fire department shortly before the June 19, 2013 fire at J & R Tire Recycling. Since then, Fell said he has worked with the department to rebuild it stronger and better than ever.

Fell did not address a question regarding the city sales tax issue.

Fell is married to the former Shirley Buhrmester and



FELL

has five step children, two daughters, and a son.

He is board member at Hoopeston American Legion and serves on the color guard, firing squad and honor guard.

Tarter, 31, is running his first race for office. A graduate of Valparaiso University and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, he is employed as assistant director of advising and student services for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the U of I.



TARTER

The major issue facing Hoopeston is its deteriorating infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks, storm draining and water system, he said. "We must spend the money needed to correct these issues before the deterioration escalates," he said.

Another major priority is code enforcement, a lack of which has led to several buildings reaching the point where they are not salvageable. Stronger code enforcement would prevent that from happening in the future.

"We must also learn to embrace the phrase, "do more with less,"" Tarter said, adding the city must look for efficient procedures that will allow the city to accomplish its goals with little additional financial resources.

At the same time, Tarter supports the sales tax to help pay for necessary infrastructure repairs and to replace the amount of generated income tax returned to local

See WARD 1 on Page 4

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Letters to the Editor

Error in ad corrected

I would like to respond to the paid political ad published in Just the Facts on Monday, March 23, 2015. The second statement regarding water rates being raised is correct; however the rate was not raised by \$3.23. For residential service, it was raised to \$3.23 from \$2.69 per thousand gallons for the first 5,000 gallons. That would be an increase of 54 cents per thousand gallons for a total increase of \$2.70 for the 5,000 gallons of water used. That increase took effect in September 2013.

As ordinance 2014-5-B, amending rates and charges, states in subsection F, there will be an annual increase of five percent for five consecutive years. The rate increase in September 2014 was 16 cents per thousand gallons or 80 cents per 5,000 gallons of water used. In September of this year, the five percent increase will work out to 17 cents per thousand gallons.

These amounts are not taxes, they are charges for goods and services rendered. Revenue from water/sewer billing can only be used for water/sewer related items per the Illinois Revised Statutes 65-5/11-141.

Marta Pierce, Billing Clerk
City of Hoopeston Water Department

Let's take less money, be better citizens

Let me share with you why I think the proposed Hoopeston sales tax is both needless and harmful.

Without a sales tax, Hoopeston has progressed. In so many ways we have become the envy of the surrounding communities. I mentioned this in my previous letter, but just look again at the new businesses and services that have come to Hoopeston in recent years.

- the nearly new CVS store.
- the brand new Family Healthcare of Hoopeston Clinic.
- the new McDonalds,
- Autumn Fields Assisted Living,
- Heritage Health Nursing Home,
- La Casa del Sol Mexican Restaurant,
- Danville Area Community College Hoopeston campus,
- a newly renovated IGA

I can only say WOW! This list is an impressive list.

This list was accomplished not by government but by individuals and organizations who believe in Hoopeston. They neither needed nor wanted significant government

help.

And while this was going on, the city has done its share. In just the last two years we have:

- upgraded McFerren Park with a \$200,000 splash pad,
- purchased a used, but new to us, aerial fire truck for \$100,000,
- upgraded the cemetery roads for nearly \$50,000,
- donated \$25,000 towards the Christmas lights project,
- budgeted \$20,000 for a housing study,
- budgeted \$25,000 to tear down dilapidated buildings,

All-paid-in-cash! All done with no sales tax! All done within a balanced budget and growing cash reserves.

Obviously we do not need more money from a sales tax!

Now let me turn to why a sales tax is actually harmful?

First, a sales tax takes money from citizens. Government can have more money to spend ONLY if we citizens have less money to spend. We both CAN NOT spend the same dollar. There are many people who need every dollar they have just for essentials. A sales tax would certainly be harmful to them.

Second, more money means more waste. Fiscal discipline does not come naturally to governments.

My dad taught me that good fiscal discipline is saying "or" instead of "and." You can do this "or" that, but not this "and" that. Give your government ONLY the money it needs, not what it wants. Force your government to say "or" instead of "and." What your government wants and what your government needs are two different things. Force your government to make choices, force your government to say NO to some things.

We all think we "need" things then later discover we only "wanted" them. I remember a George Foreman grill I absolutely "had to have" a few years ago. I have used it twice in six years.

Like that George Foreman grill, "wants" masquerade as "needs" to the City Council at budget time. The Council's job is to prioritize and separate needs from wants. In the past 20 years Hoopeston has been forced to cut or postpone many projects from the budget. I can think **nothing** that was permanently cut that today we wish we had done. The discipline required to make

choices at budget time has prevented a lot of waste. Having to make choices is not a bad thing, it is a good thing.

Two other quick points.

Those wanting a sales tax say a sales tax is good because a sales tax is paid, in part, by nonresidents as well as residents. But that is a "red herring." Sales tax money from nonresidents is significant only if lots of people come to Hoopeston to shop. We would have to be what economists call a "shopping destination." Hoopeston is not a shopping destination. We residents would basically pay the entire sales tax.

Second quick point, Governor Rauner has listed reducing the local share of state income tax as one idea to help balance the state budget. If this happened (and it probably won't) it will reduce some of the revenue for every town and city in Illinois. Many towns are in a panic about this. Those towns in a panic have lots of debt and no reserves. Fortunately, Hoopeston has practically no debt and excellent reserves. Unlike so many other towns, we need not panic. Let us not be stampeded. Let's just wait, see what happens and then, only if necessary, act in a deliberate, calm, appropriate and common sense way.

If money is not the answer to our problems, what is the answer? We need to develop a responsible citizenry. Without a responsible citizenry any town is doomed. There are many ways to develop a more responsible citizenry, but that is an entire topic for later. Suffice to say we can become what we wish only if each of us demands excellence, first from ourselves and then from others.

You have heard the expression: "If not us, who? If not now, when?" Well, it is "us" and it is "now."

So let's start becoming better citizens today, right now! Sign up for the citywide "Spring Spruce Up" on March 28.

In summary,

- Vote against ANOTHER unnecessary tax
- Vote against more money for government and less money for people
- Vote against waste
- Vote against the sales tax!
- Instead, work FOR citizen excellence

Bill Goodwine
Chairman, Finance Committee
City of Hoopeston

Briefly

Spring Spruce Up

Volunteers are needed for a two-pronged Spring Spruce Up in Hoopeston.

The first date will be March 28, with a planter painting party at 8 a.m. downtown. Rain date is April 4.

The second phase will be to put dirt, dig and plant the planters and will begin at 8 a.m. May 2. Rain date is May 9.

For more information, call city hall, 283-5833.

Ward 1 continued from Page 1

governments that may be cut as part of Gov. Bruce Rauner's plan to reduce state debt.

Tarter has been involved in Hoopeston Community Alliance's housing subcommittee. "Working on this committee, and getting to know the people of this community encouraged me to run for this position," he said.

Yaden, 42, has bachelor degrees in architecture and construction management and a minor in business. He has owned Yaden Flooring for 15 years.

Two issues are of primary importance in Hoopeston, he

HPL spring break activities

Families looking for some spring break fun can enjoy a free movie at 2 p.m. Monday, March 30, at Hoopeston Public Library.

Judith Viorst's acclaimed children's book about a boy named Alexander who is having a really bad day is brought to the big screen by Disney in this 2014 release starring Steve Carell and Jennifer Garner. The movie is rated PG and is open to all ages.

said: 100 year old water mains and rundown buildings.

"For years we have heard about old corroded pipes," he said. "Each winter we see the city digging up burst pipes and yet we still have no ideas or timetables to start replacing them." Yaden would like to study options to lay new pipe to see which ones will work best for Hoopeston, then plan how, when and where to start working it through the city.

As for dilapidated buildings, Yaden said he would start by aggressively enforcing current codes and ordi-

Children ages 8 and under should be accompanied by an adult. Free popcorn will be served.

At 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 3, children from pre-school through sixth grade can enjoy "Spring Fling" at the library. Easter activities planned include a story time, games, and several crafts to make and take home.

Once again, children ages 8 and under should be accompanied by an adult.

nances. "I have heard more times than I can count 'that person has no money so there is nothing we can do.' If the city is unable or unwilling to enforce, there is no reason to do anything. As the city tears down dilapidated buildings without enforcement, others will be ignored and take their place. With enforcement, the owners use their own money to update or demolish these buildings."

Yaden is against the proposed sales tax.

"The same night the council told us how important this tax would be they chose to spend \$25,000 on a housing survey and another \$25,000 on Christmas lights," he said.

"More recently they chose to spend \$65,000 on painting the inside of the water building when \$500 would have accomplished the same job. Until the city learns to treat our tax money like their own, they are undeserving.

"The residents of Hoopeston work hard and while the city needs money to operate and maintain they must not frivolously and carelessly throw money away."

Weather

Chance of flurries today. High 36. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 17. Tomorrow, sunny. High 38, low 23. Sunday, breezy, chance of rain late. High 51, low 36.

From the Blotter

A 30-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 6:46 a.m. Wednesday that someone entered his garage in the 600 block of West Maple and removed and/or damaged items.

A 48-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 6:50 a.m. Wednesday that his 2005 green Ford F150 truck was stolen from his home in the 700 block of East Penn during the overnight hours.

The vehicle was later recovered.

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

Seasonal driver needed at Crop Production Services Fountain Creek. Must have CDL class A or B and pass drug screen. For information call 217-375-4275 or come to 289 N 1700 East Rd Cissna Park IL 60924

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.

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom duplex for rent. Ground floor, water and trash included. \$425/month. Call 217-304-2145

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

10 month old, Xtra Lg Capacity white Crosley Washer and Electric Dryer for sale \$550 217-375-4222

Old is **GOLD!**

Get rid of your unwanted items with a

Just the Facts classified.

Email publish@justthefacts.net or call **(217) 283-9348** to place your ad!

Reason #15 why you should



Vote
NO
City Sales Tax

Government is supposed to provide services for the general public. In Hoopeston, that includes police and fire protection, streets and water.

Owners can and **SHOULD** take care of their own property.

Vote **NO** on April 7!

Paid political ad