

Meet the candidates for April 2 election

Four candidates are vying for three trustee positions in the upcoming Consolidated Election on April 2. Trustees serve four-year terms. Incumbent Jim Peck is seeking another term. Michelle Guffey, Jeff London and Jeremy Shaw round out the slate; none of the three has sought public office before. Shaw is not technically a newcomer but also is not an incumbent since he stepped in to fill the remainder of longtime Trustee Larry Reed's term after Reed's passing last September.

Incumbent

Jim Peck is running for his second term on the Board. He is married to Lisa and they have three grown children and three grandchildren. Peck, the lone Forsyth native running, works as a facilities manager at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

He attended Maroa-Forsyth schools and Richland Community College and has spent almost his entire life living in the Village. In addition, Peck served as Maroa-Forsyth School Board president for a num-

ber of years and is a volunteer assistant for the Trojan football team.

"I love my community, and I love public service," Peck said. "I want to continue to make this community the best place to live and raise a family.

Peck said he would like to see continued steady growth in housing, business and recreation, and he'd like to keep the tax rate low and Village spending in check. Peck thinks the upcoming Prairie Winds subdivision is an important project that will help the community grow.

He's proud of the integral role he played last year in the Village now flying American flags on some main roads from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The challenges he sees ahead are Hickory Point Mall's viability and bringing visitors to town especially on weekends to enjoy local shops, hotels and restaurants.

"These are challenges that I think we are up to," Peck said.



Peck



Shaw



Guffey



London

continued on page 3

Rummage sale, Spring Clean Up Days coming in May

This year, two popular events, the annual community-wide rummage sale and the Forsyth's Spring Clean Up Days are running back to back.

The rummage sale, open to all residents (no signup is required), is slated for Friday and Saturday, May 3-4, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. And, then the following week, beginning Monday, May 6 through Friday, May 10, will be the Village's yearly spring cleaning

where residents can be rid of leftovers from the rummage sale and more.

If you plan to do some shopping during the rummage sale, watch for signs on street corners and in yards.

Clean Up Days is a free service provided by the Village annually. All Forsyth residents may take advantage of this popular spring-cleaning event to dispose of unwanted large items. Please note that restrictions apply.

Clean Up Days exceptions include: landscape waste, oil, hazardous chemicals, paint, tires, household trash and railroad ties. While electronics are banned from landfills, the Village uses a state-certified recycler who will take eligible electronics for recycling.

Note: Spring Clean Up Days pickup schedule for 2019 will publish in an upcoming Village Vision as the event gets closer on the calendar. ♦

Medicare Benefit Counselors

Do you have questions about Medicare, co-insurance, or deductibles? Do you need help with prescription drug costs or premiums? Starting Point/Macon County Health Department will be at Forsyth Public Library on Monday, April 1 from 2-3 p.m. Medicare benefit counselors will be available to provide answers and assist seniors with enrolling in Low-Income Subsidy and Medicare Savings Programs.

Story Time

Join us for story time at the library on Friday mornings at 10 a.m. On March 29 it's Mellow Yellow. Then fly back in for Let's Go Fly a Kite on April 5! Our last story time of the spring will be Bouncing Bunnies on April 12. Story times are geared toward ages 2-5 with siblings welcome. No registration is required.

Baby Talk

Parents and caregivers of children ages birth to 3 are welcome to join their youngsters for a fun time of story, song and play. Grownups can share challenges and accomplishments. Baby Talk is every Wednesday morning from 9:30-10:15 a.m. No registration is required.

Magazine & Used Materials Sale

The 2019 Magazine & Used Materials Sale will be held in the library's conference room on Friday April 12 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Saturday, April 13 (10 a.m.-noon). Sale items include DVDs (50¢ each), magazines (10¢ each) and books (25 ¢ each). Of special note is the large number of children's books available for purchase in this year's sale. These items have been withdrawn from the library's collection for reasons of datedness, condition or lack of circulation. Proceeds from the sale go to the Village of Forsyth's general fund.



Scott sews his very own pillowcase at Forsyth Public Library's sewing class. Other kids are eager to learn to sew on a machine in April at our second session!

Block Printing Class

Adults are invited to learn the ancient art of block printing and gain the skills for a new hobby! On Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m., instructor Jennifer Stout will guide you through the process of carving a stamp, then making prints with your design. No experience is necessary. Participants will leave with their artwork and reusable printer's block. Please register in advance by calling the library at 877-8174.

Tech Club

Spring is finally here, and with it comes wanderlust for many. Whether you are a detail-oriented planner or a spontaneous adventurer, there are many internet resources available to help research, plan and execute a trip that will be enjoyed by everyone. Instructor Val Bock will introduce the latest tools to help plan your travels. Join us at the library for Tech Club on April 9 at 10 a.m. No registration is necessary.

Book Discussion Group

Food For Thought book club discusses *Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole on Thursday, April 11 at 6 p.m. *New York Magazine* describes this book as "an astonishingly original and assured comic spree." Come join us for a discussion of this American comic masterpiece. ♦

Community Watch

University of Illinois Extension nutrition experts present "Wake Up Call: Eating to Avoid Diabetes," at the next Community Watch meeting. One in three Illinois adults have prediabetes, and most don't even know it. Learn what prediabetes is, how to make healthy food choices, and get tips on how to prevent diabetes. Community Watch meets Monday, April 1 at 1 p.m. in the community room at Forsyth Public Library and is open to everyone. ♦

Election

continued from front page

Familiar face

Jeremy Shaw and his wife Angie have two young children. A native of Maroa, Shaw has worked at Caterpillar for over 18 years and is currently the orders and scheduling manager at the company's Decatur facility. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration with minor in economics from Illinois State University and is a graduate of Maroa-Forsyth High School.

The Shaws have made the Village their home for over eight years.

Shaw is running, he said, because he's enjoyed serving as a trustee over the last five months and wants to continue to serve the community.

"This is home, and I love this community and care about our residents and the future of the Village," he said. "This community has given so much to me I know I can reciprocate and make a positive impact and contribute to the on-going success of our Village and residents."

Shaw's philosophy of public service is to listen, to provide high levels of services to residents, to be business-friendly and to support growth of new residential development by Forsyth being a community where people want to live.

He sees good opportunities ahead for the Village, especially with its strong financial position and hopes to be part of the "important fiscal decisions" that will be made regarding the proposed sports park and community center and the efforts to "attract a grocery store to Forsyth."

First-time candidates

Michelle Guffey has been a longtime volunteer helping with a Christmas toy drive and helping to feed the homeless during the holiday season. She's also co-owner of a business — All Area Construction Services — in addition to being a property manager. She is married

and has three step children and three grandchildren.

A Decatur native and graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, she studied early childhood development for four years. With her family raised the timing to serve is perfect, she said.

"At this time in my life as we are now empty nesters and with extra free time I would like to get involved at the grass roots level of my community," Guffey said. "I'd like to share some of my insights and business management skills to help keep Forsyth great."

Her goals for the Village include: bringing in more new home owners thus expanding the Village's population and tax revenue base. She'd also like to help bring new businesses to the Route 51 corridor. She added that she'd like to see the continued development of the bike path through the Village.

"The main challenge I see for the Village is the lack of jobs in our local community," Guffey said. "If we had more local jobs, we could bring in more residents to our Village and build some affordable homes."

Jeff London and his wife Crystal have five children, with two ready to graduate from Maroa-Forsyth High School in May. They have resided in the Village for six years. A Decatur native who spent his teen years in Moweaqua, he worked 23 years in environmental, health, safety and security. His bachelor's degree is in community health education from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

He's volunteered as a fireman and for a number of activities with the Maroa-Forsyth schools, including helping with football, track and volleyball. He's always had the desire to serve the community and schools where he lives.

"With our kids graduating, serving as a Village trustee will allow me to continue to serve the community in a very important role," he said.

Public servants, he said, should be financially responsible first and foremost. He plans to focus on a few key areas: business sustainability and development; affordable quality housing; and recreational opportunities, which he believes could be enhanced for Forsyth residents and to attract others to the community.

A big challenge for the Village, London said, is retaining current businesses.

"Whether it's the mall, restaurants or even a future grocery store, people recognize this as an important area for our community," he said. "Retaining important businesses and continuing to attract new ones will always be a top priority for us." ♦

Coloni retirement party Thursday

Come say thank you to retiring Director of Public Works Larry Coloni at a farewell gathering in his honor to be held in the community room at Forsyth Public Library from 3-5 p.m. on Thursday, March 28. Coloni, who has served the Village for 28 years, will retire March 31. ♦

Reminder:

The final deadline for The Community Foundation of Macon County's online scholarship applications is Sunday, March 31, 2019, by midnight. Submit applications at www.endowdecatur.org. ♦

Follow the Village on
Twitter and Instagram at:



@ForsythIL



ForsythIL

Forsyth Fast Facts

Items of interest from village staff and recent board meetings

■ Here's a pretty cool statistic posted to the Village's Twitter feed on March 1: There is over \$17 million spent on food and beverage in Forsyth each year.

■ In the March 18 law enforcement report, Sgt. Ron Atkins of the Macon County Sheriff's Office told trustees that there had been recent incidents during weekend nights at Hickory Point Mall involving juveniles. Atkins believed some of the activity, particularly a group of about 15 juveniles, was driven by social media, adding that many of the juveniles' parents did not know their kids were at the mall. On another topic, Atkins noted that Deputy James Turner, at Village Administrator David Strohl's request, has been doing a good job of making his presence known near the middle school and has been making

related traffic stops. Mayor Marilyn Johnson asked deputies to be aware of recent reports of loud music being played in Forsyth Park near the Veterans Memorial.

■ Community and Economic Development Coordinator Nic Duffie's March 18 report to trustees noted that he recently spoke with the corporate team at O'Charley's about their vacant building. Duffie wrote that there is continued interest in the building and that the people at O'Charley's prefer to sell the property rather than lease it.

■ The next regular meeting of the Forsyth Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in Village Hall at 301 S. Route 51 in Forsyth. Board meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month and are open to the public. ♦

Village of Forsyth Mayor and Board of Trustees

Mayor Marilyn J. Johnson
195 E. Ruehl St.433-3655

Kerry Denison
873 Cara Chris330-0795

Bob Gruenewald
718 W. Forsyth Pkwy.520-5489

Jim Peck
335 Forsyth Parkway433-5700

Jeremy Shaw
1274 Raptor Lane (309) 830-0509

Kerstin Trachtenberg
923 Stevens Creek Circle454-5770

David Wendt
797 Christopher Drive877-2935

Village Hall 877-9445

301 S. Rt. 51, Forsyth, IL 62535

**Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
closed 12:30-1:30 p.m. for lunch**

www.forsythvillage.us

Email: Info@forsythvillage.us

Twitter: @ForsythIL

Instagram: ForsythIL

Forsyth Public Library877-8174
www.forsythlibrary.com

Public Works877-1653

**Local Postal Patron
Forsyth, IL 62535**

for 22 years
TREE CITY USA®



VILLAGE OF FORSYTH
PRIDE & PROGRESS

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Forsyth, Illinois
Permit No. 2