

3 candidates vying for Clay County Commission

By Plain Talk staff

Three Vermillion residents will be on the June 3 Democratic primary election ballot seeking two at-large openings on the Clay County Commission.

Voters will be asked to choose two of these three candidates: Ray Hofman, who is resigning his position as Clay County register of deeds to run as county commissioner, Mike Manning, and incumbent Commissioner Phyllis Packard.

Commissioner Les Kephart, Vermillion, whose term will expire this year, is not seeking re-election.

Following are the responses of the three county commission candidates to a Plain Talk questionnaire:

Phyllis W. Packard

Family:

Lived in Vermillion & Clay County since 1968 and raised two children, Ahna Packard, her Set Designer Credits include MONK, Star Trek, and the recent Oscar-nominated film "Nebraska," she is married and has two children (my grandchildren), they live in Kearney NE; and Aaron Packard, professional photographer, co-owner of LumoStudios & Gallery and adjunct faculty at USD Visual Arts Dept. His last credit includes photo shoot for the New York Times of Daktronics and the Panthers ownership.

Education:

Grade school – High School – Wellesley, Mass. Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University Masters of Public Administration – USD – Political Science Dept., Vermillion

Occupation:

1968-1986 Worked as professional artist and taught at USD, Yankton College, and throughout the state of South Dakota in over 50 communities through the South Dakota Arts Council Artist-in-the-Schools program.

1987-2010

Worked as senior planner (disaster and environmental/solid waste) for SIMPCO, Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council, a Tri-State regional planning organization. From 1994 - 2010, was employed as solid waste director for the Vermillion regional solid waste & recycling system through the city of Vermillion. A few of my proudest achievements include the development of the landfill as a balefill,



After recent media reports indicated that most women holding office did not have political backgrounds but had been athletes, Phyllis Packard was urged to use this photo in her campaign. She was part of the Sunapee Water Ski Show in the early 1960s, and is top right in this photo that appeared on the cover of the Boston Globe.

(Submitted photo)

design and development of the recycling facility and the implementation of Vermillion's curbside recycling program. Retired in 2010.

2004-present Co-owner and Co-operator of LumoStudios & Gallery on Main St. Vermillion. LumoStudios is a family owned and operated fine art & craft gallery, photo studio, weaving studio, and yarn shop. pwpackard.com

Position running for: Clay County Commission

Incumbent Yes – in first of the four-year term

Why do I want to serve:

The current Clay County Commission is a hard working team that currently works well together and I wish to remain part of the team. Each commission member provides their expertise and energy and it is through the members' broad educational and experience base that the current commission is active and effective. My background in program development, budgeting, personnel, and public management provide valuable expertise to the commission.

Three Biggest Challenges:

Roads & Bridges Our roads and bridges are the lifeline for Clay County agricultural industry and residents. Providing the repairs and upgrades to our roads and bridges is more expensive than the funds currently available. Some ways to achieve the funds necessary will be to request more funds from federal and state legislatures. The commission needs to

continue careful budgeting practice to find efficiencies and dedicate savings to roads and bridges, and to identify additional cost effective repair methods in areas.

Drainage Maintaining the proper drainage throughout the county is a continual challenge. The design, bidding, and project oversight of ditch maintenance is imperative and constant in order to meet the challenge.

Increase Recycling – Decrease Waste

Throughout Clay County and the nation waste continues to be a challenge. The county is an integral part of the Vermillion Solid Waste System operations and serve on the Solid Waste & Recycling Board. To meet this challenge I want to provide more countywide education on landfill, hazardous waste management, and recycling. I will be working toward providing and recycling drop off trailer to be positioned in Wakonda to assist with rural recycling.

Why am I the best for the position:

Willingness to serve – We need more Women in Government Experience – Over 40 years experience in professional public management

Education – Educated in Public Management Dedication – I have dedicated much of my life to public service and even when experiencing chemo and a serious operation early in my commission term I missed only one meeting.

A recent review of women in public office identified that the majority

of those holding office did not have political backgrounds but most had been athletes. On this vein, a local businessman recommended I use the attached photo for my campaign.

I was on the cover of the Boston Globe around 1962-63. I am top right. I was part of the Sunapee Water Ski Show and taught water skiing.

In high school and college, I was on the Snow Ski Team at Wellesley High School and Syracuse Ski Team and competed in slalom and giant slalom events.

Previous community/public service:

Beyond my employment in the public sector I have served as board member and inmost cases officer (chairperson) of the following organizations:

Current board member, Vermillion Development Corporation & Chamber of Commerce

Clay County Historic Preservation Commission, past board member and past president

Vermillion United Way, past board member and past president

Vermillion Area Arts Council, past board member and past president Vermillion Area Community Foundation, past board member

South Dakota Solid Waste Management Assoc., past board member and past president

Midcontinent Recycling Assoc., past board member and past vice chair

Iowa Solid Waste Assoc., member

SWANA Solid Waste Association of North America, member

Ray A. Hofman

Family:

I am married to Pam who works part time at St. Agnes School and we have two children, Alex, age 29, who works for Sioux Falls Interiors as a project manager, and Ariel, age 25, who is a third year med school student at St. Louis University.

Occupation:

I am currently the Clay County Register of Deeds and I plan to retire from this position on June 6, 2014.

Why you want to serve as a Clay County Commissioner?

I really enjoy public service and feel that I can bring competent knowledge and experience to the board. Working for the county has given me a good understanding of county operations and I feel this would make me a good team player for the commission.

What you believe are the most important issues/challenges facing Clay County?

I believe that the commissioners have a great responsibility to maintain safe bridges, roads and law enforcement. We need to maintain a good working relationship with other counties and city officials. In doing that, we build a strong future for our county.

Overview/Highlights of your career:

I graduated from Vermillion High School and then enlisted in the U.S. Army where I became a Military Policeman and after two years of service I returned home and was hired by the Vermillion Police Department, where I spent 12 years on uniform patrol and the last 13 years as a detective. I was then hired by Clay County as veterans service officer, welfare officer and zoning administrator. Since 2010, I have served as the registrar of deeds.

Previous community/public service:

Eight years as a city councilman, five years SD Retirement Board of Trustees, four years SD Law Enforcement Trainings & Standards Board, four years United Way Board.

What makes you the best person for this office?

I feel I have a good working knowledge of county government and I

am helpful and responsible in all that I do. I am always available to discuss any citizens concerns on all county issues.

Michael Manning

Family:

Wife, Linda Two sons, Justin and wife Colette, and Andrew Two grandsons Education: •Vermillion High School

•University of South Dakota

Occupation:

•Retired United States Postal Service, last 13 years as postmaster

•Involved in farming for 40 years

The position for which you are running: County Commissioner

Why do you want to serve in this role?

I feel that it is important to be involved in your community and since I'm semi-retired I now have the time to get more involved.

The three biggest challenges facing the area:

•Maintaining the roads and bridges in the county

•Keeping the budget in line with the tax dollars that are generated

•Finding new forms of revenue without raising taxes

How would I address the challenges?

•The roads and bridges: I would look at each situation and prioritize each one in order of need and importance.

•The budget: I would make sure that the budget dollars were used appropriately to do the business of the county.

•New form of revenue: I would work with the Vermillion Development Company and the community of Wakonda to bring new businesses into the county. This would increase the tax base and bring new residence into the county.

What makes you the best person for this office?

My background in farming gives me the ability to understand the problems and concerns of the people living in the rural area. My experience of running a business and living in the city gives me insight to the concerns of people living in the urban area. No other candidate that is running for county commissioner can relate to both of these experiences. I have the ability to start contributing from day one and I look forward to serving the residents of Clay County.

VERMILLION POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

05/11/14 00:20 – Officers cited a man for open container after seeing him with an open beer bottle walking on the roadway.

05/11/14 00:29 – A citizen turned over a debit card that was found on the sidewalk. The owner was located and the card returned.

05/11/14 00:40 – Officers cited a subject for open container who was drinking an alcoholic beverage outside a bar.

05/11/14 01:24 – Caller reported finding an unknown intoxicated woman on her porch. Officers contacted the woman who thought she

was at a friend's home and was confused that another woman lived there. The woman was able to call a friend who came and took her to a safe location.

05/11/14 01:33 – Sex crime investigation started.

05/11/14 02:20 – Officers cited a man who was walking down the street drinking from a beer bottle.

05/11/14 09:58 – Complainant reported a possible violation of a court protection order. Under investigation.

05/11/14 15:48 – Caller reported a loud dispute occurring. Officers responded and found that an argument had occurred

between the mother of a young woman and the young woman's roommate during a move out process. Officers mediated the dispute.

05/11/14 16:08 – Officers were called to a residence regarding an ongoing domestic dispute. The caller was the husband and claimed his soon to be ex-wife had drugs in their home and brought the officers in to show them. No drugs were found but what appeared to be a pipe bomb was found. The area was secured, a DCI bomb tech responded and a search warrant for the residence was obtained and served. The item was safely removed from the

residence and disposed of.

05/15/14 11:04 – Officers assisted the court services with a search of a subject on probation. Drugs and paraphernalia were found and the subject was arrested.

05/15/14 21:13 – A vehicle was stopped for failing to stop for a stop sign and other erratic driving. The driver was intoxicated and was arrested.

05/16/14 00:38 – A vehicle was stopped for speeding downtown. The driver did not have a license and was cited for not having a driver's license.

05/16/14 13:53 – Complainant reported an ongoing with a former

renter. The issue was a civil matter involving money owed for back rent. The complainant was provided with information on pursuing a civil claim.

05/16/14 18:01 – Complainant requested a welfare check on an individual who had been depressed lately. Efforts continue to contact the man and determine his welfare.

05/16/14 21:50 – Caller reported receiving

harassing text messages from a former boyfriend in violation of a protection order. Under investigation.

05/16/14 23:01 – Sex crime report started. Under investigation.

05/16/14 23:50 – Officers stopped a car after seeing several moving violations. The driver was intoxicated and was arrested.

Total Records: 17

THANK YOU!

To all of you who took time out of your busy lives to remember me in some way on my 80th birthday, I thank you. You all hold a special place in my heart and it meant so much to see you or read your birthday wishes.

Very sincerely,
Maxine Rogers

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Avera Health

THE WAKONDA HERITAGE MANOR IS LOOKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- CNA'S DAY & NIGHT
- RN'S AND LPN'S 12 HOUR ROTATING DAY & NIGHT SHIFT

INTERESTED CANDIDATES CONTACT THE WAKONDA HERITAGE MANOR 605-267-2081