

McLean County Museum of History

**Garrett Scott Normal Council Campaign (2003)
Collection**

Processed by
Robert Bradley
Summer 2013

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	2003
PROVENANCE:	Gift
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	None

Historical Sketch

In 2003, Garrett Scott decided to run for a sixth full term on the Normal Town Council. A full term on the Council is four years. Initially, he had decided not seek another term on the Council because he was planning to retire within the next four years. He changed his mind due to his desire to be involved with the anticipated redevelopment of the Town of Normal.

During his prior terms on the Council, Garrett was the impetus for the creation of Constitution Trail, which is a heavily used walking and biking system of trails through Bloomington-Normal and extending to nearby communities. He was credited with supporting the

purchase and renovation of the Normal Theatre. He also was involved with the development of Ironwood Golf Course, Fairview Water Park, the Senior Center in Normal, and with renovations at Anderson Park. He was considered to be a well-prepared Council member who did extensive research on issues brought to it, particularly in regard to budgetary matters. He had worked in the public school systems of the area for nearly 40 years, and was a graduate of Illinois State University. He was also well-known for his passion for chess, and organized and coached a number of local chess clubs and competitions.

In a typical Town of Normal Council election, three seats are up for election. If more than six people declare themselves as candidates for those three seats, then a primary election is held to reduce the number of candidates to six. A regular election is then held to determine which three of the six candidates will become Council members. In 2003, seven candidates declared as Council candidates, which meant that a primary was held on February 25 and the regular election was held on April 1.

Besides Garrett Scott, another Council incumbent, Sonja Reece, ran for another term. A third incumbent, Craig Ward, decided not to run for another term. This meant there was an open seat on the Council.

The 2003 Council election became both quite interesting and important when a citizen-led movement was successful in putting a referendum on a possible downtown hotel on the ballot for Normal residents to vote on. The referendum read: "Shall the Town of Normal build, finance, and own the hotel and conference center as proposed in the downtown renewal area?" The referendum was deemed to be purely advisory to the Town of Normal council and mayor, and its results would not be binding.

The issue of public ownership of a downtown hotel was a catalyzing force for three former Council members, Jeff Fritzen, Parker Lawlis, and Randall Middleton, to seek election in 2003 to the Council. All three ran as fiscal conservatives opposed to spending Town money on a downtown hotel, and also were opposed to proposed Town ownership of the hotel. Garrett Scott, Sonja Reece, and a newcomer, Jason Chambers, were portrayed as progressives in favor of governmental financing and ownership of the proposed hotel. Mark Wayne Johnson finished last in the primary and thus was eliminated as a candidate for the regular election.

Prior to the February 25th primary election, several developments occurred that impacted the election. The Bloomington-Normal Hotel and Lodging Association expressed publicly its opposition to a publicly-financed downtown hotel in Normal. Six of its members subsequently left the McLean County Chamber of Commerce due its support of the downtown Normal hotel plan. Snyder Development was an applicant to develop the hotel project but was not chosen to be the developer for the project. Then Snyder Development became a financial supporter of those opposed to the project. Town authorities and the Hotel and Lodging Association engaged in an ongoing disagreement about the proposed downtown hotel's impact on occupancy and room rates in Bloomington and Normal. And the Mayor of the Town of Normal, Kent Karraker, resigned from his position on February 17, which was just more than a week before the primary election. An interim mayor, Chris Koos, was appointed to replace him. Koos was a supporter of the proposed downtown hotel project.

The regular Town election was held on April 1. Election results indicated that Garrett Scott was unsuccessful in his bid for another term on the Town Council. Out of six candidates Garrett finished in fifth place. There was a 23% turnout for the election.

The results of the April 1st election for Town Council were:

First place-Jeff Fritzen-3,689 votes
Second place-Parker Lawlis-3,103 votes
Third place-Sonja Reece-2,940 votes
Fourth place-Randall Middleton-2,853 votes
Fifth place-Garrett Scott-2,777 votes
Sixth place-Jason Chambers-2,582 votes

The results of the referendum for the proposed downtown hotel were:

Yes 1,964 votes (31%)
No 4,316 votes (69%)

Shortly after the election, another matter in regard to Council membership had to be resolved. When Chris Koos was appointed to be interim mayor, he had to leave his seat on the Town Council. Due to that vacancy, Mayor Koos had the responsibility of appointing a new person to the Council. Randall Middleton argued that he should receive the appointment due to his fourth place finish in the election just 87 votes behind Sonja Reece, the third-place finisher and thus re-elected to her Council seat. Mayor Koos stated he would not appoint Middleton due to his opposition to the downtown hotel project. Ultimately, Mayor Koos appointed Jason Chambers to fill out the rest of his term on the Town Council. While Garrett Scott finished ahead of Jason Chambers in the election, it appeared there was not a significant effort to establish him as a serious contender for the appointment.

Scope and Content Note

The Garrett Scott 2003 Re-Election Campaign Collection primarily consists of material around the time of the Town of Normal's primary and regular elections in 2003. The Collection includes newspaper stories, letters to the editor, e-mails, and campaign materials. Much of the material comes from February and March of 2003.

There is one box for the collection. Box 1 contains folder 1 through folder 5. Folder 1 contains campaign material from the Garrett Scott campaign, including brochures, cards, flyers, and sample letters to the editor. Folder 2 contains campaign material for other Town of Normal Council candidates, including flyers and a brochure. Folder 3 contains newspaper material on the Town of Normal Council 2003 election, including letters to the editor, a union newspaper article, and a Pantagraph article. Folder 4 contains material on the Normal redevelopment project including newspaper articles, newspaper ads, letters to the editor, a brochure, flyers, and an e-mail. Folder 5 contains material from the Garrett Scott Re-election Committee including a list of

committee members, a welcome letter, minutes of meetings, sample flyers and letters to the editor, and budget statements.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Scott Campaign Material

- 1.1 Re-Elect Garrett Scott cards for primary election. 2 copies with two sides of text.
- 1.2 Vote for Garrett Scott cards for regular election. 2 copies with text on front of card.
- 1.3 Campaign Pin Card for Vote for Garrett Scott for general election. 1 copy.
- 1.4 Campaign Flyer for Garrett Scott. 1 copy with bulleted stances on front and supportive statements of noteworthy Normal residents on back.
- 1.5 Campaign Flyer for Garrett Scott. 1 copy with bulleted stances on front and a message to Normal voters on back.
- 1.6 Campaign Flyer for Sonja Reece, Garrett Scott, and Jason Chambers. 1 copy with stances of each candidate on green space & parks and parking and apartments on front, and on back brief bulleted biographies for each candidate.
- 1.7 Campaign Flyer for Sonja Reece, Garrett Scott, and Jason Chambers. 1 copy with stances of each candidate on gangs and older Americans on front, and on back brief bulleted biographies for each candidate.
- 1.8 E-mail from Garrett Scott to Walker Wyman about Snyder Company. 1 copy.
- 1.9 Letter by Mark Wyman to School Street/Normal Avenue neighbors primarily about Snyder Company. 1 page.
- 1.10 Draft of letter by Mark Wyman to School Street/Normal Avenue neighbors primarily about Snyder Company. 1 page.
- 1.11 Letter to the Editor for Pantagraph by Mark Wyman for Garrett Scott re-election. 1 page.
- 1.12 Draft of letter to ISU Faculty and Staff by Mark Wyman and Mark Swerdlik for Garrett Scott re-election. 1 page, 2 copies.

Folder 2: 2003 Election Material

- 2.1 Letters to the Editor for the Pantagraph, March 20, 2003. 1 page.
- 2.2 Letters to the Editor for the Pantagraph, March 22, 2003. 1 page.
- 2.3 Letters to the Editor for the Pantagraph, February 20, 2003. 1 page.
- 2.4 Letters to the Editor for the Pantagraph, March 10, 2003. 1 page.
- 2.5 Letters to the Editor for the Pantagraph, March 26, 2003. 1 page.
- 2.6 Letters to the Editor for the Pantagraph, March 25, 2003. 1 page.
- 2.7 Copy of the Grand Prairie Union News, February 2003. 2 pages (front and back).
- 2.8 Copy of Pantagraph story of candidate stances, March 26, 2003. 2 pages.

Folder 3: Normal Redevelopment Material

- 3.1 Copy of Daily Vidette story on students' impact, February 6, 2003. 2 pages.
- 3.2 Copy of Pantagraph story on hotel issue, February 16, 2003. 2 pages.
- 3.3 Letter to the Editor for the Pantagraph on mayor departure, February 20, 2003. 1 page.

- 3.4 Copy of Pantagraph story on hotel issue, February 21, 2003. 1 page.
- 3.5 Copy of Daily Vidette story on interim mayor, Chris Koos, February 26, 2003. 1 page.
- 3.6 Copy of ads taken out in Pantagraph on hotel referendum, March 15 & March 13, 2003. 1 page.
- 3.7 Copy of Pantagraph story on hotel debate, March 27, 2003. 1 page.
- 3.8 Copy of Pantagraph story on hotels leaving McLean County Chamber of Commerce, March 18, 2003. 2 pages.
- 3.9 Letters to the Editor for the Pantagraph, March 21, 2003. 2 pages.
- 3.10 Letter to the Editor for the Pantagraph, February 27, 2003. 1 page.
- 3.11 Letter to the Editor for the Pantagraph, March 5, 2003. 1 page.
- 3.12 Letters to the Editor for the Pantagraph, February 22, 2003. 1 page.
- 3.13 Letter to the Editor for the Pantagraph, March 12, 2003. 1 page.
- 3.14 Brochure for Yes vote on hotel referendum. 1 page.
- 3.15 Fact sheet on hotel referendum. 1 page.
- 3.16 Flyer on Reconsidering Downtown Normal and FAQs on Downtown Renewal. Double-sided, 3 copies.
- 3.17 Flyer on FAQs on Downtown Renewal. 1 page.
- 3.18 Copy of e-mail from Lane Crothers to Walker Wyman, February 6, 2003. 1 page.

Folder 4: Other Candidate Material

- 4.1 Flyer for Jason Chambers. 1 page.
- 4.2 Brochure for Sonja Reece. 1 page.
- 4.3 Flyer, double-sided, for Jeff Fritzen, Parker Lawlis, and Randall Middleton, with brief bios on front and issue stances on back. 1 page.

Folder 5: Campaign Committee Material

- 5.1 List of members of Re-election Committee. 1 page.
- 5.2 Letter to Normal Residents for Garrett Scott by President, James W. Pruyne, of Committee, February 2003. 1 page.
- 5.3 Committee packet consisting of Meeting Agenda for January 26, 200(2?), Committee sign-up sheet, working budget sheet, draft of letter soliciting volunteers for campaign, copy of volunteer sign-up form. 5 pages.
- 5.4 Copy of Committee Meeting Agenda, February 2, 2003. 1 page.
- 5.5 Copy of Committee Meeting Agenda, February 11, 2003. 1 page.
- 5.6 Committee packet consisting of Meeting Agenda for March 20, 2003, cost of Pantagraph inserts, draft of flyer for Garrett Scott, draft of message to voters, draft of message to voters, draft of flyer on downtown redevelopment, draft of letter to editor. 7 pages.
- 5.7 Copy of agenda for committee meeting, undated. 1 page.
- 5.8 Copy of costs for campaign material. 1 page.
- 5.9 Copy of recommendations for Committee work. 1 page.