

Meet the candidate: Dave Schmidt

By Jen Bondeson News-Post Staff | Posted: Wednesday, August 28, 2013 2:00 am

Dave Schmidt is a Republican candidate for alderman.

1. Should the city continue investing public dollars in business ventures? The city owns an airport (Frederick Municipal Airport), a theater (Weinberg Center for the Arts) and a golf course (Clustered Spires). Should the city be investing in a downtown hotel and conference center?

I do not believe that the local government has a role in providing services that the private sector can adequately handle. Keep the airport, sell the golf course, and keep the Weinberg. The Weinberg is a regional treasure that we should be proud to call ours. I believe that downtown hotel needs to be a privately funded project, but I would be for some tax forbearance or temporary tax relief to incentivize a hotel group to invest here.

2. Assess the efficiency of the Frederick Police Department. What improvements should be made?

Their move toward effective use of innovative technology should be applauded. They've done their part to become effective and efficient. We need to do ours. We need to fill the sworn officer positions that remain vacant in the city. Our Police Department needs a complete complement of personnel so we aren't overtaxing their resources. I would also be willing to look at increasing the number of sworn officers if the department shows justified need.

3. Are the city's resources (funding, police, planning, recreation, etc.) allocated appropriately throughout its neighborhoods? Name any neighborhoods you feel receive too much or too little, and explain why.

We can't get tunnel vision on our Market Street retail corridor. Community involvement should be key to making decisions for the city. Organizations like East Frederick Rising, Golden Mile Alliance or the NACs take precious time out of their lives to offer solutions and ideas. We need resident input from all over the city. We need to find the money, and then invest in smart, intelligent growth around



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the city, including mixed-use paths and roads.

4. What's your view on the status of business and crime along Carroll Creek Linear Park? Is the city moving in the right direction when it comes to redeveloping this area?

I believe that even the perception of crime is damaging to our community. Again, we need to adequately fill the ranks of our police force, so they have the personnel to do their job well. Carroll Creek is incredibly important to the growth of our city. But we need to make sure we're not building something that is unsustainable. With the right plan, and the right incentives to businesses, the CCP is a fantastic investment.

5. What is the best plan for Hargett Farm?

Hargett Farm was purchased using a bond slated for nonprofit/noncommercial use. We can't just cut our losses and sell the property. The only way we will be able to do anything with that property is if we find the money. So our only solution is to grow the tax base, budget in savings for future expansion, and once we have the money, we can turn it into a regional park or whatever we decide we want.

The Frederick News-Post invited candidates in this year's Frederick mayor and Board of Aldermen election to give their thoughts on some of the city's issues. We will publish their responses over the next few weeks leading up to the Sept. 10 primary election.