

Ellettsville Town Council, Ward 3

Ed Bitner (D)

Scott Oldham (R)

1. What are your qualifications for the office you are seeking? (100 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: I have seven years experience on the Town Council, serving as the Council President for the last three years. I routinely work with multiple agencies and various government departments on projects and am intimately familiar with the inner workings of government processes and organizations. I am a small business owner who routinely must interface with corporations, federal, state and local governments and other clients throughout the United States which lends perspective to my work with the Town Council.

2. What is your vision for Ellettsville's development over the next four years? (125 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: Ellettsville is on the verge of a great deal of growth which brings with it a great deal of opportunity. The Council has laid the ground work to prepare for this by significantly improving the Town's financial health and modernizing equipment and infrastructure, such as the new Town Hall, to support this growth.

Over the next four years I plan to continue to strengthen the financial health of the Town by carefully crafting our allocations and working with several partners to bring jobs and opportunities to the area by courting a variety of businesses to locate within the Town. Improvements to our Parks and other 'quality of life amenities', which in reality are investments in our future, will only strengthen our ability in these areas.

3. How would you approach the flooding problem in Ellettsville? (125 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: This issue has over a 50 year history with little being done to abate the issue in the past, now is the time to correct that. In 2015 the Town purchased the former Stewart's Pasture, and is now awaiting permits to construct a retention basin there to slow the flow of water through the Town. To the greatest amount allowed by DNR the bed of Jack's Defeat Creek has been cleaned and dredged. A second water retention area off of Matthews Drive is in the planning stage. This will allow safe collection of water upstream, followed by a managed flow through the downtown to the northern retention area so that waters do not back up in Town causing flooding.

4. What do you envision as the future of the trail in Ellettsville? (125 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: I believe the Heritage trail will serve as a cornerstone to the future of Ellettsville Parks developments. As I referenced, the pasture area was purchased to use not only as a retention basin but also as a large multi-use park giving our citizen's an area to play, exercise or simply enjoy time outside. The Heritage Trail will connect to the Monroe County Trail in this park. A third phase of the Heritage trail, following the historic railroad bed to the north of downtown leading toward Matthew's Drive, can hopefully be built in the near term using grant funding. I envision this portion of the trail leading to another multi-use park where I would love to see a splash pad area built.

5. What strengths do you see in Ellettsville as a community and how would you seek to build on those over the next four years? (125 words)

BITNER: No response.

OLDHAM: Our biggest strengths are our citizens and our geographic location which gives us the advantage of access to larger Cities yet allows us to retain a 'small town feel'. Simply Ellettsville is a great, safe place to raise a family.

Over the next four years we must take advantage of the completion of I69 and the development which has traditionally followed major high-way projects with one of only a limited number of interchanges located immediately east of Ellettsville.

Likewise we should capitalize on major improvements at Indiana University, particularly the athletic complexes. Ellettsville is only minutes from this area and we should seek, on the far eastern side of Town, to become an area of commerce capable of servicing the area's numerous visitors.