

Retired Nurse Wants To Heal Divide In Colton Community

By LARRY ROBINSON

COLTON - Democratic town council candidate Kathy Hayes has spent a lifetime helping people heal their wounds, and now she's hoping to play a similar role in helping heal the community's political divide.

Hayes, 72, is a political newcomer who spent 35-years as the school nurse at Colton-Pierrepoint Central School, while at the same time working as a nurse at Canton-Potsdam Hospital.

Now retired, she still works as a volunteer nurse, and said helping other people is all she has ever wanted to do.

"I love to take care of sick people," she said.

Hayes knows that she is a political novice, but said she is running for the Colton town



KATHY HAYES

board because she sees a need to end what she describes as a negative attitude now plaguing the township.

"There does seem to be so

much negativism lately, and Colton really is a nice place to live," she said.

What she lacks in political experience, Hayes plans to make up by reaching out to community members and members of the town council itself. She said it is an approach she has used throughout her life that hasn't failed yet.

"The only way I know to help people is to speak softly and kindly to everyone," she said. "Treat everyone alike. The people in Colton deserve to live in harmony and goodness."

"I want to extend a kind and gentle hand," she said.

Hayes is a lifelong Colton resident who graduated from Colton-Pierrepoint Central

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School and went on to earn her nursing degree from D'Youville College in Buffalo in conjunction with A. Barton Hepburn Hospital.

She is running on a Democratic ticket in Colton with Joe Zelinski for councilman and

Tina Miller for town assessor.

Also running for office in Colton are acting Supervisor Bill Swafford, as well as councilwomen Grace Hawley and Joan Kilroy. All three are running for the supervisor seat vacated earlier in the year by Hank Ford. Swafford is run-

ning on the Republican ticket, Hawley on the Conservative line and Kilroy as a Democrat.

Also running for election to the town council is incumbent Republican Councilwoman Mary Jane Watson, and Republican candidate Edwin Wright.