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## Marshall Selects Ward, Niles, 2 New Aldermen

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

Anita Ramsey Ward won her second term as mayor of Marshall, defeating challenger Raymond "Eugene" Moore by 84 votes during municipal balloting Tuesday.

Ed "Doc" Niles was the only one of three incumbent aldermen to win reelection, as Marshall voters selected Iverson Bradley and Jackie Davis to the seats held by Faye Reid and John Dodson.

According to unofficial results announced shortly after 10 p.m. Tuesday, Ward collected 251 votes to Moore's 167.

Bradley, district manager of French Broad Electric Membership Corp. in his first attempt at running for public office, surprised even himself by emerging as the election's top vote-getter.

Bradley collected 277 votes, while Davis grabbed 225 to easily take the second seat on the Board of Aldermen. Niles, with 173 votes, edged out fellow incumbent Reid, who finished with 167, by a mere six votes.

Dodson finished farther off the pace with 148 votes.

Former Marshall Mayor Betty Wild gathered 116 votes in her bid to win an alderman's position, while former alderman and longtime town employee James "Booth" Marler finished with 98 votes.

A large crowd gathered outside Town Hall for two-and-a-half hours while election officials handcounted the ballots cast Tuesday.

Bradley and Davis quickly emerged as the front-runners in the aldermen's race, while Niles and Reid were neck-and-neck throughout the evening for the third alderman's seat.

The counting continued until about 10 p.m., followed by the computation of the final tally by election officials.

A very happy Ward hugged Marshall Town Clerk Linda Dodson after she learned that she had won reelection.

"I've got a lot of friends, that's all I can say," Ward said. "I've got a lot of friends."

Unless a canvass of election results later this week changes the outcome, the Marshall Board of Aldermen will have two new members.

"I think they both (Bradley and Davis) want to work on problems we now have, plus try to bring industry in," Ward said. "In the coming years, we need to work on recreation and try to make this town grow."

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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Outgoing Marshall Alderman John Dodson and newly elected Alderman Iverson Bradley check early election results Tuesday night.



Anita Ward  
...wins second term

## Lasher Wins Re-Election In Weaverville

By MICHELLE WYATT  
News Record Correspondent

Weaverville voters returned incumbent Mayor Reese Lasher to office for a second term by a surprisingly large margin over challenger David "Bud" Bell.

Lasher, an accountant with the firm Gregg & Lasher, outdistanced Bell, an incumbent Weaverville councilman, 448 votes to 140, according to unofficial results Tuesday night.

Voters also returned incumbent councilmen Harold Payne and Bernard Koesters to office, but failed to re-elect incumbent Kathleen Young.

Newcomers Ann Williams, Franklin D. Spears and Ronnie "Butch" Davis will join Payne and Koesters on the Weaverville Town

Council for the next two years.

In the councilman's race, Payne was the top vote-getter with 444 votes to win his third consecutive term. Williams, president and manager of Williams Construction Co., finished in second place in her first bid for public office, grabbing 420 votes.

Spears, a retired wildlife officer, finished a close third in his first election bid, with 417 votes. Davis, a salesman for Phil Mechanic Construction Co., also involved in his first campaign, finished with 389 votes.

Koesters collected 376 votes to take the fifth Town Council seat and his second consecutive term.

Young finished with 276 votes, according to unofficial results - 100 shy of a third term on the council.

Bonnie Capps, co-owner of Brown's Floral and Gift Shop, received 289 votes in her first bid for public office.

After the votes were tallied Tuesday night, Lasher said he was pleasantly surprised with the way things went.

"The election was pretty satisfying, not only to win, but the margin that I won by," Lasher said. "People see our progress as something that everyone can share. I hope I can live up to the margin of victory and the voters' confidence."

Lasher said he was more pleased with this year's victory than when he first won election.

"To be elected in 1985 was exciting. To be re-elected is much more gratifying," he said. "Thanks to all the

people for their confidence in me." Lasher said the next two years should be busy ones.

"I don't plan to rest on my laurels," he said. "The projects that I have initiated will continue. I look forward to working with my new council."

Bell, after learning of his defeat, expressed congratulations to Lasher.

"I see that the people want him in office," said Bell, who retired from the town's water, sewer and streets departments with nearly 27 years of experience.

Among the councilmen, Payne said he will be concentrating on water problems and the town police department during the coming years.

"But most of all, I feel we need to be more responsive to the taxpayers and the citizens," he said.

Spears and Davis agreed that the police department will require immediate attention of the council, while Williams said she wants to help Weaverville obtain its own permanent water supply.

Koesters, who in 1985 was aligned with Lasher's campaign, said he was pleased that he won re-election.

"I'm excited about the turnout," he said. "Personally, I was running on my own. It (re-election) reflects support for me as an individual."

Election results are unofficial until certified by the Buncombe County Board of Elections.



Reese Lasher  
...re-elected in Weaverville

## Godwin Is Mars Hill Mayor; Slagle, Willis Join Board

By ROBERT T. KOENIG  
Special to The News Record

Retired college professor Dr. Joseph Godwin scored an overwhelming victory Tuesday in the Mars Hill mayoral election.

Godwin outpolled William E. Powell III 289-48 in the unofficial count held in Town Hall following the close of the polls.

Godwin will succeed Mars Hill Mayor Owen Tilson in December. Tilson, who served four non-consecutive terms as mayor, did not seek re-election.

Joining Godwin on the Board of Aldermen will be Clayton Slagle, Clayton Willis and incumbent alderman John L. Chandler.

According to the unofficial returns, Chandler led field of four candidates with 272 votes. Slagle and Willis won seats on the three-member board

with 222 and 219 votes, respectively. Eddie Fox, Madison County Emergency Medical Service director, finished fourth in the balloting with 186.

Good weather contributed to a heavy turnout for a town election. Officials estimated that 76 percent of the town's eligible voters cast ballots Tuesday.

Godwin's overwhelming victory was apparent early to the 30 spectators who attended the vote count. Municipal election chairman Walter Smith called out the individual paper ballots. Godwin received the first 11 votes Smith read and compiled a 9-1 margin through the first 100 ballots. Complete unofficial returns show the former psychology professor received nearly 86 percent of the vote.

The mayor-elect did not attend the countout at town hall. Contacted at

his home Tuesday night, Godwin said the town's sewer system would be his first priority. Saying, "There's no reason in the world for our sewer rates to be as high as they are," Godwin said the system would receive his immediate attention.

Godwin said he would push to have 31 homes in the trailer park operated by C.N. Willis added to the town's sewer system.

Godwin was an unsuccessful candidate for the Madison County Board of Education in 1986. Tuesday's municipal election was his second campaign for public office.

Godwin is a professor of psychology emeritus with Mars Hill College, where he taught for more than 18 years prior to his retirement in 1985. For the past nine years he has served as the pastor of the Pleasant Gap Baptist Church in Yancey County.



Joseph Godwin  
...Mars Hill's new mayor

Commenting on his election, Godwin said "I personally went to every home in town and carried my program to the people."

Godwin and the aldermen will be sworn into office in December.

## Hot Springs Re-Elects Ramsey By Wide Margin

By EMMA LOU WAMBLES  
News Record Correspondent

Voters in Hot Springs went to the polls Tuesday and chose to reseat their incumbent mayor, Kenny Ramsey, by a wide margin.

Ramsey, owner of the Trail Cafe and an emergency medical technician with Madison County, received 167 votes to win his second term as Hot Springs mayor.

Write-in candidate Gerald Cloli polled 75 votes, according to unofficial returns Tuesday night.

Cloli had originally filed as a candidate in the mayoral race, but withdrew, only to later re-enter as a write-in candidate.

Jerry Shelton also received two write-in votes in the mayor's race.

In the race for aldermen, Hot Springs postmaster Bill Whitten was the front-runner, taking 162 votes. Ruth Smith, the only female in the race, ran a close second to Whitten, with 159 votes.

Wesley Staude, the only incumbent aldermen running in this year's municipal election, finished third with 136 votes. The victory gives Staude his second consecutive term as alderman.

Johnny Lawson, who ran unsuccessfully for alderman in 1985, had no better luck in 1987, finishing in fourth place with 123 votes.

Elmer Hall collected 111 votes and Curtis Roberts, who lost to Ramsey in the 1985 mayor's race, finished in last place in the 1987 aldermen's race with 47 votes.

In a telephone interview following the tallying of the ballots Tuesday, Ramsey expressed his thanks to those residents who voted for him. He also commended Cloli for a respectable performance as a write-in candidate.

"I intend to work hard with the new board that was elected, and strive to get some industry for the town," Ramsey said.



Kenny Ramsey  
...survives write-in campaign

Cloli said that although he didn't win, he is still willing to serve the town of Hot Springs.

"I lost. It's the will of the people," Cloli said. "I wish the best to Kenny Ramsey. I want to thank the people for the statement of welcome to a newcomer. If I can be of service to the town in any way, I'd be happy to. Best of luck to Ruth Smith."

Election results will not be official until a canvass later this week.

## Pre-Election Letter Criticizes Current Mars Hill Mayor Tilson, Alderman

By EMMA LOU WAMBLES  
News Record Correspondent

An expected pre-election day confrontation between outgoing Mars Hill Mayor Owen Tilson and the man who formerly held that position failed to materialize at Monday night's meeting of the Mars Hill Board of Aldermen.

Former Mayor William Powell had helped obtain information contained in letters circulated in Mars Hill questioning several expenditures made by the board during Tilson's administration, including a number of paving projects in the town.

The letter, addressed to town citizens and signed by "Concerned Mars Hill Citizens," also questioned the board's legal accounting and auditing fees. Some 20 people attended the meeting.

According to the letter, distributed three weeks Tuesday's town election (see related story), \$40,000 in town funds were spent on the paving of five

streets directly serving eight houses. None of the streets were discussed or paving projects approved at open meetings, the letter states.

Tilson, directing his remarks to Powell at Monday's meeting, said that the board had authorized him to supervise beautification projects throughout the town - including the grading and paving of designated streets.

Tilson cited the minutes of a Jan. 28 meeting, at which the board made that authorization. Town Manager Darby Boas confirmed Tilson's account.

The letter also charged that Tilson and Alderman John Chandler, the only one of three Mars Hill incumbent aldermen seeking re-election in Tuesday's municipal vote, were actively suppressing public fire as candidates for re-election.

That is a serious town employee issue, according to a director of the Madison County Emergency Medical Service,

Chandler denied that he has any connection to Fox's campaign, and said that whoever has accused him of politicking for Fox was lying.

Chandler said he enjoys living in Mars Hill and feels it is time for hostilities to cease.

Powell had sent similar letters, distributed to residents with Asheville Citizen newspaper boxes, in April criticizing the Tilson administration. That meeting turned into a two-hour dispute between Tilson and Powell.

When residents received the recent letters, again distributed in the newspaper boxes, many expected a similar confrontation at Monday's meeting. But that battle never took place, and town officials were able to adjourn the meeting after about an hour.

The letter circulated this week urged residents to vote for Alvin Slagle and Clayton Willis for aldermen and Joseph Godwin for mayor.

In other action, the Mars Hill Board of Aldermen heard a report from Boone on the town's on-going spillway and sewer line projects.

Boone told the board that he had talked with engineer Gary McGill, who has received verbal approval for the town to proceed with the letting of bids on both projects.

The town has agreed to a \$173,150 project to replace leaking sewer lines on the Mars Hill College campus. Excess storm water runoff from gutters and drains on campus has been getting into the sewer lines and has driven up the cost of operating the wastewater treatment plant, town officials say.

The town is also gearing up for a \$200,000 project to reconstruct the old spillway after causing under fire from the U.S. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

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