

Southport To Elect Mayor And Three Aldermen

BY SUSAN USHER

Southport Mayor Norman R. Holden is unopposed in his bid for re-election Tuesday.

Ward II Alderman Robert Thorsen is also seeking election.

In Ward I, the seats currently held by Ed Oliver and C.B. Caroon are available. Oliver is seeking re-election; Caroon did not file for re-election. Barry J. Callari and James C. (Jim) Brown are also seeking to represent the second ward.

Callari, 56, retired four years ago from his own architectural firm in his home state of Louisiana after 22 years. He and his wife, the former Stuart Arrington of Southport, returned to Southport because they like the quality of life offered and wants to see it preserved or improved, he said. Callari serves on the Southport Community Appearance Commission and has a real estate broker's license, but would not work in that field while in office, he said.

"I would like to devote full-time to the office," he said. "I have plenty of time and expertise to offer."

"The town has a lot of little things always to be concerned about—the tax base, jobs, keeping the young people here. Southport will grow whether people like it or not, but that growth needs to be orderly so as to maintain the town's unique character." To that end, he would like to see more attention given to the community's appearance.

Any annexation undertaken by the town should be cost-effective, adding significantly to the tax base. Otherwise, he said, he would rather try to hold taxes down while improving services to existing areas.

Brown, 46, manages the Oak Island office of Margaret Rudd Realty. The former minister and food store



Holden



Oliver



Thorsen

manager is president of the Brunswick Toastmasters and is active in the Southport Lions Club and professional organizations.

He wants to find ways to reduce water and electric bills and hold the line on taxes if possible without affecting the level of services. Brown also favors planned growth, a policy he said includes annexation of certain areas, specifically the business district out N.C. 211 where annexation may be cost-effective.

"Annexation just to annex is futile, especially when you must provide the area service within two years," he said.

Brown said he wants to represent all citizens, not special interest groups.

Oliver, 64, of Riverside Drive, ran Oliver's Grill for 36 years. He was appointed to the town board in May 1981 to fill the late Pierce Horne's seat, winning election that fall. He has served on the budget committee for three years as well as serving on other committees as needed. He expects the town to continue initiating projects as needs arise.

"I feel the past four or five years have been real productive. I think we've been meeting the demands of growth," he said, citing the wastewater treatment plant expansion, annexation and redevelopment

efforts. "The board has worked together well, reaching a consensus on major matters."

A Charlotte native, he earned a degree in accounting from the Illinois College of Commerce. Oliver served in the U.S. Navy, has been active in the Lions Club, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Parish Council and was a member of the Southport Boat Harbor Commission before its dissolution.

Thorsen, 57, seeking his second four-year term, said the town needs to do more for senior citizens, including provision of a better place to meet; and to honor the women and other community leaders who built the town. A historian by vocation, he believes a sense of continuity is important to the community's future.

Thorsen said he's excited about the new wastewater treatment plant and happy those who create the demand for expanded services will pay most of the cost of providing them.

"We're getting a little selfish and beginning to look after the town's best interests," he added.

He graduated from King's Business College with a degree in management/administration and accounting and retired after 26 years in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force.

Thorsen represents Southport on

the Eastern Municipal Power Authority, a pooling of several towns that purchased part of one CP&L reactor at the Brunswick plant, and is chairman of its research and development committee. The goal is to reduce electrical costs for the town, he said.

"There's no such thing as a rubber stamp on the board now," he said with pride. "We need people who can use their minds."

Holden, citing a loss of federal revenue sharing funds and possible loss of the property tax, sees finding new sources of revenue as a major challenge for the town board during the next several years.

Looking at the small turnout of candidates, he says he "would like to think we're doing a good job. Overall I think people are satisfied with city government."

Holden, 49, would like to see the town's new wastewater treatment plant project through to completion, as well as current annexations, community appearance and downtown beautification projects.

He is the Brunswick-Bladen counties unit supervisor for the N.C. Division of Adult Probation and Parole. The Southport native and U.S. Air Force veteran graduated from Pembroke State College with a degree in political science. Previously he taught school two years and was director of the Lower Cape Fear Juvenile Service Center. He works with the N.C. Fourth of July Committee, serves on the Volunteer and Information Center board and is active in the N.C. League of Municipalities.

Southport residents will vote in their usual precincts—Ward I at the Jaycees Building on Fodale Avenue and Ward II at the Brunswick Technical College Annex.

Belville Hopefuls Want To Hear Citizens' Ideas

Three men are unopposed in their bids for election in the northern Brunswick County town of Belville.

Seeking the mayor's office is Kenneth Messer, 37, a Belville native and operator of the Cameilia Motel. Running for the two commissioners' seats are Roger Reigle, 57, and Thomas Butler, who could not be reached for comment.

Messer is a graduate of Leland High School, a member of the Leland Lions Club, and was in the U.S. Army Reserve 17 years.

"I'd like to see the community grow and develop in a positive way," he said. "I'd like to see more involvement with the people who actually live in town. I realize the town is strongly business oriented but I would like to see the residents equally represented."

Messer said he was glad to see the town contract recently for garbage collection, but added, "There are other things that can be done," such as improving the lighting, adding a police department and cleaning up the town.

"I'd like to get input from all the citizens about where they would like to go and work in that direction."

Reigle, a retired steel worker



Messer

Reigle

who's lived in Belville about three years, moved there from southern Maryland. In World War II he served in the Intelligence Corps of the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry.

He, too, is interested in a cleaner Belville, better lighting and "a few other changes, as long as they're agreeable with the people."

In Maryland he was president of his local steelworkers union. "I like communicating; I like people and doing things with them. I've always been a leader of people," he said.

Belville residents will vote at the town hall. Town residents who live within the Leland Sanitary District (south to Jackey's Creek) will also vote at the town hall for the district's governing board.

Yaupon Beach Four Unopposed

No change in leadership awaits Yaupon Beach voters on Nov. 5, where four incumbents are seeking election.

The three top vote-getters will serve four-year terms, while the low vote-getter will serve two years, completing the term of former commissioner Harold Hines. Commissioners will elect a mayor from within their number following the election.

Robert W. Brown, budget and finance commissioner, currently holds the seat by appointment. He is a loan officer with Security Savings & Loan in Southport and lives at 1104 Elizabeth Drive.

Mayor Pro Tem E.W. "Ernie" Rees is seeking a third four-year term on the board. The retired non-commissioned military officer owns the Island Locksmith dealership and lives at 2 Oak Island Drive. He has lived at Yaupon Beach 15 years.

Homer Brewer, the water, mos-

quito control and street light commissioner, is seeking his third term on the board also. Retired from the U.S. Navy he has lived at Yaupon Beach since 1974.

J.M. Warren is also seeking his third four-year term on the board. He owns the Yaupon Exxon Servicenter and lives at 301 Barbee Boulevard.

The three have consistently opposed consolidation of the three Oak Island communities and increased multi-family development and are concerned about improving traffic conditions, particularly at the intersection of Oak Island Drive and Long Beach Road.

Brewer said he feels the current board has gotten along better than previous boards and that the town seems to be running smooth.

As for the lack of candidates for office, "The way I interpret it and the rest of the board interprets it, they're very well satisfied with how its being run at the present time."

Field Vocal In Long Beach Campaigns

BY SUSAN USHER

Commissioner Johnny Vereen III is challenging incumbent Mayor Benjamin C. Thomas for the helm of town government at Long Beach, while candidates seek three seats on the town board of commissioners.

Seeking commissioners' seats are William H. Millard, 67, a retired brick mason; L. Lee Pressnell, 68, the only commissioner seeking re-election; John R. Ramsey, 41, chairman of the Long Beach Board of Adjustments; Ronald J. (Ronnie) Shannon, 31, real estate agent and chairman of the town capital improvements committee; James Sloop, 55, a Brunswick County Sheriff's deputy who was chief of police for Long Beach until July; and James R. (Jim) Somers, a building contractor and former mayor.

All the candidates survived an Oct. 8 primary to make the Nov. 5 ballot.

Mayor Thomas, 48, is supervisor of Daniels Maintenance and Industrial Services at Pfizer Chemicals Inc. in Southport. He has served as mayor since 1983 and a previous term from 1979 to 1981.

"Orderly preparation" for growth of the town is the most important issue facing the board, he has said.

Vereen, 31, town commissioner since 1981, owns Appliance Shop and Air World and is president of Spann Industries. He is a member of the Brunswick County Airport Commission.

A native of Long Beach, Vereen says he wants to control budget spending and give people more of a voice in town government. He led a tax revolt in the town around 1978 and was elected to the town board in 1981.

Millard wants to terminate the town's garbage collection fee at the end of the budget year, spend tax money carefully, encourage public participation in town affairs and protect the family residential concept.

"I think I can do a better job than I've seen in the past year in respect to budgeting people's money and representing the people," he said. "At least they'll have an opportunity to speak they haven't had in the past."

A former brick mason department supervisor with the Corning Glass Works in Corning, N.Y., and other plant locations, the West Virginia native has lived at Long Beach six years. He was chairman of the 1984 Region O Senior Games, is active in various senior citizens organizations, and is a charter member of the local Masonic Lodge formed last year.

During his first term, Pressnell said he opposed 1) passage of town budgets that have increased the tax rate by 41 percent in the last five years with, he said, no increase in number of services; 2) a user fee for garbage collection; and 3) locating the town maintenance facility across the waterway.

Pressnell said he also worked to change the method of voting to include a primary as a way to reduce



Vereen



Millard



Somers

the impact of possible block voting by special interest groups and supports the single-family residential concept.

"I don't like overspending and raising taxes. I hope one day we will get some people on there to help me stop it," he said.

Elected to the board in 1981, the Asheville native retired from a management post with DuPont in Connecticut in 1980 and has lived in the town about five years. He has a

master's of science in mechanical engineering.

Ramsey is manager of Carolina Kitchens and has lived in Long Beach for six years. The Hamlet native said that the current board "is not listening to people is real obvious," that there is an apparent lack of concern in the way public funds are spent and that priorities need to be shifted. "They're mixed up when more money is spent on recreation than on

fire and rescue combined," he said, adding that the town doesn't need a sewer system.

"My main concern is that people have a voice in government," he concluded.

Ramsey holds a B.S. in industrial arts from Appalachian State Teachers College (ASU) and previously was a public school teacher and administrator, managed a Georgia-Pacific plant in Sumter, S.C., taught woodworking continuing education classes for a number of years and was a member of Brunswick Toastmasters.

Shannon favors a centralized sewer system, citizen input in decision-making, a beautification campaign, thoroughfare planning, a second bridge linking Oak Island to the mainland, continued funding of the recreation department and sound fiscal management.

He seeks orderly growth "conducive to the type of lifestyle we have already established—family oriented, not overbuilt."

Shannon is a Long Beach native employed with Shannon Real Estate. He is a director and president-elect of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce and member of the Oak Island Moose Lodge and Lions Club.

In 1982 he ran for Brunswick County commissioner on the Republican ticket. This is his first try for municipal office.

Sloop, a state-certified law enforcement officer, has been a town resident for 11 years.

He wants the public to have a say in government decision-making.

"It is time we did some serious looking at what we want this beach to become," contends Somers, a resident of Long Beach for 12 years and property owner for 22 years.

He says he wants to keep the town family oriented, to continue to develop a stable year-round economy to broaden the tax base, and to improve town services. He favors a sewer system, controlled growth and improved streets.

Somers, who owns Somers Building & Plumbing Inc., attended Pfeiffer and Elon colleges for two years. He was in the U.S. Air Force for four years and currently serves as Oak Island's volunteer civil preparedness coordinator.

He is a former rescue squad member and during the campaign is on leave from the fire department.

Somers was a charter member and past president of the Brunswick County Home Builders Association, former director of the U.S. King Mackerel Tournament and the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce, a past member of the Brunswick Toastmasters and the parent advisory boards of South Brunswick Middle and High schools, and a past president of the Oak Island Lions Club.

Town residents will vote at the Long Beach Recreation Center.

Bolivia Aldermen Seek Re-Election

Bolivia Mayor Ina Mae Mintz and town aldermen Murray S. Tatum, Ella Jane Wescott, Deborah H. Stanley and Steven Robbins are all running unopposed for another term of office.

Mayor Mintz, a 44-year resident of Bolivia, is seeking her third term. She is chairperson of the Brunswick County Council on the Status of Women and a member of Bolivia Baptist Church as well as owner of Mintz Chevrolet.

Murray S. Tatum, 72, has lived in Bolivia for 17 years. Originally from Alabama, he is a member of the Lion's Club and Bolivia Baptist Church.

Ella Jane Wescott, 40, is a staff accountant at Pfizer Chemicals Inc. and a member of Bolivia Baptist Church.

Bolivia Elementary School



Mintz

Stanley

teacher's aide Deborah H. Stanley, 31, has lived in Bolivia for nine years. She is a native of Grissetown and is active in youth organizations.

Steve Robbins, 31, moved back to Bolivia four years ago. He is a chemical operator at Pfizer Chemicals Inc.

Bolivia citizens can vote on Nov. 5 at the town hall.

Five Seek Seats On Dasher Board

Five candidates are seeking three seats on the Dasher Hospital governing board.

Current Chairman Gene Hart and member Evelyn Teal Butler are seeking re-election. Charles H. Rogers, who was appointed to the seat formerly held by the late Lorraine Bellamy, is seeking election. Also in the running for the three seats are Charles Roof, Robert Bukoski and Charles B. Johnson.

The J. Arthur Dasher Memorial

Hospital Tax District was created by referendum of Smithville Township voters on Aug. 17, 1978. Members are elected to six-year terms unless completing an unexpired term.

Voters empowered the board to levy a tax of up to six cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on residents of the district. The current taxing rate is four cents.

Oak Island residents will vote at their usual precincts polling places, as will Southport's two wards.

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