



Sunset Beach Candidates Address Issue Of Growth

BY DOUG RUTTER

One person has filed for mayor of Sunset Beach and five people have filed for two open seats on the town council.

The mayor's term is for two years with an annual salary of \$800 and council members serve four-year terms and receive \$500 annually.

The only mayoral candidate responded to the Beacon questionnaire, as did three of five candidates for town council.

M. Mason Barber Jr.

M. Mason Barber Jr., 64, of 107 Canal Ave., is running unopposed for mayor of Sunset Beach.

Barber retired after 38 years of employment with Exxon, and is a veteran of both World War I and the Korean War. He has a wife, Ginny, and three children.

Barber is a 1949 graduate of the University of Georgia and current president of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association. He is also deacon of Ocean Drive Presbyterian Church.

He said the most important issues currently facing the town of Sunset Beach are meeting the increasing demands for services and facilities, keeping the tax rate down and protecting the environment.

Barber said, "I believe many problems can be avoided if the population density is relatively low and we do not try to crowd too many residences, businesses and recreational facilities into an area that is too small to accommodate them."

He said he is seeking election because "there is time now for Sunset Beach to avoid many of the mistakes other communities have made when faced with sudden and overwhelming growth. I want us to have a good stable future, and I am willing to work for it."

Mary Katherine Griffith

Mary Katherine Griffith, 40, of 417 Lake Shore Dr., is an incumbent town council member serving her second term. She has also been a member of the town's planning board.

Griffith is a teacher at Waccamaw Elementary School. She received a bachelor of arts degree from UNC-Wilmington and a master's degree in education from the University of South Carolina. She is also president and recording secretary of the local chapter of the national teachers' sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa.

She said the most important issues facing Sunset Beach are zoning, orderly growth and beach access.

Griffith favors careful zoning which she said will lead to orderly growth and the maintenance of a "family beach" atmosphere.

She also said beach parking has

become a big problem for both residents and visitors. "We must search for a solution that is environmentally safe, financially feasible and meets the needs of all concerned," she said.

Griffith concluded, "During my years on the council, I feel that I have gained insights into the administration of our town that will help me continue to be an effective member of our governing board."

Edward M. Gore Jr.

Edward M. Gore Jr., 27, of 407 Lake Shore Dr., is employed at Century 21 Sea Path Realty.

He is a graduate of West Brunswick High School and currently enrolled part-time at Brunswick Community College.

He said important issues at Sunset Beach include street improvements, drainage, parking and the general attitude of the town towards its residents. Gore said he is in favor of a proposed parking lot on the island's west end.

Gore also said, "My business involvement gives me many opportunities to interact with all levels of government. I understand the ramifications of government decisions upon individuals and businesses."

A.J. Odom Jr.

A.J. Odom Jr., 43, of 502 Northshore Dr. West, is the owner of The Odom Co. of Sunset Beach.

He is a member of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, South Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors and South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

Odom was graduated from Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., with a bachelor of science degree in psychology and continued post graduate study at University of South Florida. He has a wife, Annette, and one stepdaughter, Erika Farr.

Odom said the most important issues at Sunset Beach are the controlling and directing of development and the preservation of the community's character as a nice place to live or visit.

He said he is running for council "to provide objective, unbiased representation of the wishes of Sunset Beach residents as well as non-resident property owners."

Odom added, "I think the majority of residents and property owners favor orderly, controlled, low-density growth in keeping with the history of Sunset Beach."

Not responding to the Beacon questionnaire were Donald B. Safrin, 59, an incumbent commissioner seeking re-election, and Mazie B. Frink, 50, a first-time candidate for public office.

Four Candidates Seek Three Ocean Isle Council Seats

BY DOUG RUTTER

Four candidates are running for three open town council seats and one person is running unopposed for mayor at Ocean Isle Beach.

Councilmen are elected to four-year terms without pay. The mayor is elected to a term of two years and receives no salary.

The only mayoral candidate and two of four candidates for town council responded to the Brunswick Beacon questionnaire. A fifth candidate for commissioner, John S. Brockington, 58, withdrew from the race.

Betty W. Williamson

Betty W. Williamson, 48, of 115 Causeway Dr., is running unopposed for mayor of Ocean Isle Beach.

Williamson was a town council member for eight years and chairman of the town's board of adjustments before her appointment as mayor.

She is a graduate of Whiteville High School and currently operates Betty Williamson Realty. Mrs. Williamson has a husband, Frank, and two sons, Frank Jr. and Derrick.



B. Williamson

Fox

She is a member of Camp United Methodist Church and has served as director of the N.C. Board of Realtors.

She said the most important issues currently facing Ocean Isle Beach are expansion of the sewer facility, erosion control at the island's east end, the upgrading of street drainage and the addition of sidewalks and street lights.

Williamson said the town is currently looking for property expansion of the sewer facility and that she is interested in a program in which the town could work with state and local officials to control beach erosion.

She said, "I would like to continue to serve the people of Ocean Isle

Beach as I have in the past and be a part of the decision-making process as our town develops in the future."

Debbie Sloane Fox

Debbie Sloane Fox, 33, of 99 E. 2nd St., is an incumbent town council member seeking re-election.

She is employed at Sloane Realty and has served on the board of realtors and as a Brunswick Hospital trustee.

Ms. Fox said she is seeking re-election because she has an "interest in the future of Ocean Isle and love of the area."

DeCarol Williamson

DeCarol Williamson, 37, of Rt. 6, Box 400-1, is a councilman by appointment seeking election in his own right. He was appointed in July to replace Betty Williamson on the board.

He operates DeCarol Williamson Enterprises and has earned a college degree in theology with a minor in business administration.

Williamson currently represents the county on the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority, is chair-

man of the Brunswick County Democratic Men's Club and of the Brunswick County Independent Insurance Agents. He has a wife, Jan, and six children.

He said the most important issues currently facing the town are the adjustment of water and sewer rates and the continuation of street improvements such as lighting and sidewalk construction.

Williamson said he is seeking re-election "to continue to work toward Ocean Isle being the finest family beach on the east coast and to protect that which has already been accomplished."

He concluded, "I am proud of the input and hard work that my family has directed toward Ocean Isle Beach in the past, and I would like to continue that tradition of working with the people to achieve the end we all seek—that is a wonderful place to live and work."

Virginia Gibson, 69, an incumbent seeking re-election to the board of commissioners, and first-time candidate Ed Steele, 68, did not respond to the Beacon questionnaire.

In Shallotte, Three Are Unopposed For Alderman

As with many towns around the county, there's no race in the Shallotte municipal elections.

All three candidates for alderman are running unopposed; only one responded to the Beacon questionnaire.

David L. Gause

David L. Gause, 57, of Shallotte, is seeking re-election to a second four-year term as Shallotte alderman.

Roads, sewage system expansion and traffic are among the issues he sees as most important for the town in the coming years.

"In a few years down the road, traffic will be just as heavy in Shallotte as it is now, even with the bypass. Roads will continue to be the No. 1 project for Shallotte," he predicts.

Also he adds, "The sewage system will have to be expanded if annexation is to take place."

Among his qualifications for office, Gause lists his experience on the

board, his familiarity with some of the problems facing the town and his experience in dealing with the public for some 34 years.

A retired Wildlife Commission enforcement officer, he serves as a trustee of the Gause Foundation, which is working to restore the old William Gause Tomb, he attends Calvary Baptist Church and is a former president of the Brunswick County Law Enforcement Association.

He and his wife, Virginia, have two grown sons, Michael Lynn and Rodney Dale.

"I am retired," he adds, "so I do have the time to help with the problems that are facing the town and the community."

Wilton D. Harrelson

Wilton D. Harrelson, 60, of Shallotte, is seeking re-election to a second four-year term as alderman. He did not respond to the questionnaire.

Jay G. Simmons

Jay G. Simmons, 28, of Shallotte, is seeking election to his first term on the board. He did not respond to the questionnaire.



Gause

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