

MAYOR UNOPPOSED

Veteran Aldermen Face Challengers In Varnamtown

Two Varnamtown aldermen who have served since the waterfront community incorporated in 1988 face challenges from a pair of political newcomers as they seek re-election next week.

Voters will elect a mayor and two town board members on Tuesday. Judy Galloway is unopposed in her bid for a third consecutive two-year term as mayor, an office she has held since 1989.

Incumbent Aldermen Ennis Swain and Ada McDonald have both been on the town board for five years. They hope to be elected for four more years, but are opposed by Chris Lancaster and Charles McDonald.

Each candidate was asked to respond to a Brunswick Beacon questionnaire. Charles McDonald was the only candidate from Varnamtown who did not respond.

MAYOR

Galloway

"I believe in the town of Varnamtown and its people. I want to see it thrive and maintain its identity," Mayor Judy Galloway said of her bid for re-election.

Galloway, a fish house manager and part-time tax preparer, said development of the town park is the most important issue officials must address in the next two years. She said she wants all residents to enjoy the facility.

The mayor is a 1964 graduate of Bolivia High School and has taken accounting courses at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville.

Galloway has served as treasurer and finance chairperson for 10 years at Dixon Chapel United Methodist Church.

TOWN BOARD

Lancaster

A newcomer to the political arena, Christopher Earl Lancaster said he is seeking election to the town board because he would like to see the citizens of Varnamtown have a say in what happens in the future.

"I was born and raised in Varnamtown and I feel I know what the local people want for the direction and future of Varnamtown," he said.

"I'm also open-minded enough to

hear from all people that live here whether native or those who have chosen to make Varnamtown their home."

Lancaster said one of the top issues the town board should address in the coming term is making the town codes no stricter than the county's.

"The mobile home code just adopted should be relaxed to comply with the county codes so it doesn't cause a greater hardship on our residents," he said.

Lancaster said he would like the town board to conduct opinion polls on controversial issues instead of accepting petitions.

"We could set aside a day for registered voters to stop by the town hall and mark an opinion ballot as to how they feel about a controversial issue when it arises," he said.

"Town aldermen are elected to make decisions for the town, but when it's an issue that the community is divided over we need to hear from the people because we are elected to serve the people. We also need to be able to put aside our personal feelings and do what's best for the community."

Lancaster, a graduate of West Brunswick High School, is assistant manager at Kirby Pest Control. He and his wife, Margaret, have a 7-year-old son.

McDonald

Ada Galloway McDonald is one of two incumbent aldermen who has served on the town board since the community incorporated in 1988.

She said she is seeking re-election because she would like to see recent progress in the community continue.

"Varnamtown has a town hall which also serves as a community building, street lights, a three-acre site for a future park, and is in the process of upgrading the existing boat ramp," she said.

"Five years ago we had none of this. I have had the privilege of being a part of these improvements and would like to see this progress continue."

McDonald said the town park is the most important issue the town board must face in the next two years. "During the coming term, I feel plans for a ballpark and recreation area for younger children should be addressed."

She was chairperson of the town street-naming and house-numbering committees and has chaired the Varnamtown Planning Board since 1991.

She was president of the Brunswick County chapter of the N.C. Association of Educators Support Personnel from 1985 to 1989.

McDonald, who received an associate in applied science degree from Southeastern Community College in 1982, is a teacher's assistant in the Brunswick County Schools.

Asked what makes her the most qualified candidate for the office, McDonald said, "The voters will answer this question. I trust and will support their decision."

Swain

George Ennis Swain, another five-year veteran of the board of aldermen, believes his experience helps make him the most qualified candidate for election to the board.

"I believe the experiences gained in the last five years in the development of Varnamtown should be useful tools for guiding its future," Swain said in his questionnaire.

Swain, finance committee chairman for the town, served as chairman of the community committee that assisted with the incorporation of Varnamtown.

"I believe I offer a conservative view to continue development of this town and a priority of a budget that is easy on our citizenry," Swain said of his reason for seeking re-election.

He lists planned growth and development of the town park into a useful community asset as the top two issues the town board must address over the next few years.

Swain said he favors "planned growth that is orderly and not more restrictive than is necessary to establish a high quality environment in which to live."

A survey technician for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Wilmington, Swain is a graduate of Shalotte High School.

He also has taken courses at Cape Fear Technical College and N.C. State University as well as classes sponsored by the Corps of Engineers.

Swain is a past moderator of the Brunswick Baptist Union, and a former Sunday school director and chairman of deacons at Gospel Center Baptist Church.

Holden Beach Voters ELECT Dwight Carroll



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Paramedic Training Begins

Emergency medical technician Terri Davis listens intently as instructor Chris Register outlines some of the topics to be covered in the 12-month EMT paramedic course that began in Bolivia Monday night. The 49 local medical services volunteers and employees enrolled in the course will undergo 593 hours of training and testing before being licensed as paramedics, the highest level of emergency medical certification.

Union Speakers Share Expertise

Teachers aren't the only people with knowledge to share at Union Elementary School in Shallotte.

Recently students at the school heard from a classmate on his experience at a space shuttle launch at Cape Canaveral, and from a meteorologist at a Wilmington television station.

Union student Nicholas Love observed the launch of the space shuttle Columbia earlier this month and shared what he learned during his visit to Florida. He was invited to the launch by Bill McArthur, one of the seven astronauts on board the shuttle.

On Oct. 21, WWAY TV 3 meteorologist Kim Downing spoke to fourth graders in Debbie Thorsen's and Linda Inman's science class.

In an extended science class, Downing talked about weather forecasting and the effects of weather.

Tree Planting To Highlight UNC Bicentennial Program

Brunswick County will observe the bicentennial of the nation's first university with a celebration of public education Monday, Nov. 1, at 10 a.m. on the grounds of Shallotte Middle School.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its establishment, focusing on a heritage founded on the "revolutionary" understanding that in a democracy, education cannot be an exclusive privilege, but must be the right of every person.

Elected officials, school personnel and selected students from all areas of Brunswick County have been invited to come in a show of their support for public education.

Highlighting the ceremony will be the planting of a Davie Poplar seedling presented by UNC to one student from each of the state's 100 counties.

Mark Darby, a sixth grade student at Shallotte Middle School, accepted the seedling in an Oct. 12 ceremony

in Chapel Hill. The tiny tree was nurtured in the UNC Botanical Garden for two years, grown from a seed taken from the Davie Poplar, a campus landmark.

The trees are intended to represent "the living presence of the University throughout our state," like University alumni who have scattered to serve, and like the UNC programs that make life better for residents of the state, a news release indicated.

The tree was named in honor of a UNC founding father, William R. Davie. In 1792, a committee was appointed to locate a site for the country's first public university. According to legend, Davie and a group of trustees, exhausted by their search, sat to rest beneath the giant poplar and, under its shade, agreed the site would be perfect for the campus.

The ancient tree still stands, patched with cement and held upright by cables attached to the branches of nearby trees.

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