

# Council Will Help Forge Northwest's Future As Town

Jerry Munn is unopposed in his bid for mayor Tuesday when Brunswick County's newest town, Northwest, holds its first elections.

Seven candidates have filed for the five-member town council. The three candidates with the most votes will receive four-year terms and the next two will receive two-year terms, to create staggered four-year terms in future elections.

Seeking council seats are Elsie Jane Peterson, Jay Robinson, Elijah Perkins Jr., Charles (Chip) Carroll, Robert J. Munn and Linwood Ballard Jr.

Only Peterson and Robinson returned candidate questionnaires.

## Peterson

Peterson, a retired social worker with the N.C. Division of Social Services, said she wants to be involved "in helping an area become a community in which persons value and respect each other."

This first year of incorporation, she said, must be spent in building a foundation "that builds a fair tax base and provides basic services." Of next highest priority is creating an environmentally safe community as it relates to water, air and land resources.

"I have deep roots in this community," wrote Peterson. "I've seen it

change from an agrarian community to a bedroom community; I believe that I can help blend the old with the new in an orderly way."

Peterson earned a bachelor of arts in education and a master's of social work, both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While she has held no previous elective or appointive offices, her leadership experience includes service as chief of staff development, supervisor. She has also served as Sunday school director of her church.

## Robinson

Robinson, a former millwright mechanic, is seeking office to help "the hardworking people of this community for once in their lifetime receive a somewhat fair share of their tax monies," he wrote.

Like Peterson, environmental safety is also one of Robinson's concerns. He wrote that the "groundwater we drink" should be the council's No. 1 priority this coming year, as well as "the air we breathe."

He would also like to see the town take the initiative to get a loop road built at Port Royal, to avert the possible derailment of another train loaded with chemicals.

Third, he wrote, "We have got to try and teach out to younger chil-

dren and let them know there is life without drugs."

Robinson, who is retired from L.C.P. Chemicals and Allied Chemicals, said he has been "hammering" at these issues for 20 years.

He is a graduate of Lincoln High School, a notary public and a certified loan officer for the state AFL-CIO Credit Union. His past leadership experience includes election as shop steward of his union for three years and five years as a loan arranger for the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Credit Union.

## Election Certain For 3 In Belville

Election is a sure thing for the three public officials seeking election in Belville in northern Brunswick County.

Voters won't have a choice of candidates for municipal office when they go to the polls Tuesday. Mayor Kenneth D. Messer Sr. is seeking a return to the board, as are commissioners Eunice Long and Betty Sutton.

The mayor serves two years and commissioners serve four years.

None of the three returned candidate questionnaires.

## Four Running For 2 Caswell Seats

Two incumbents and two challengers seek two seats on the Caswell Beach Board of Commissioners.

William Boyd Jr. and Robert M. Terry want to be re-elected. They are challenged by Joseph F. O'Brien and Robert Charles Spake.

Terry and O'Brien did not respond to the *Beacon* questionnaire.

## Boyd

William A. (Bill) Boyd Jr. is a retired Army officer who holds a bachelor's degree from Furman University. He has served as a councilman since 1993.

He is seeking office "to continue service to my community undertaken in 1987 when I became a town councilman (and to) continue as the town's finance and budget officer."

Boyd's priority issues include continuing the underground utilities project, increasing the tax base with measured growth and continuing community involvement in volunteer programs.

He says his qualifications are "positions of leadership and responsibility through 28 years of active military service."

## Spake

Robert Spake is a retired Food Lion company executive. He attended Clemson University and is a first-time office-seeker.

He is past president of the Caswell Dunes Home Owners Association and is a past board member of Hills Food Stores. His civic and church committee appointments include the Finance Committee and Building and Nominating Committee at Ocean View Methodist Church.



Spake

Spake said he is running "to bring proven leadership and quality business experience to the office. In my opinion we are not maximizing our potential for conservative fiscal management, growth and development of our infrastructure."

He says one of his priorities will be to develop a long-range plan through citizen involvement to systematically work toward their desired goals.

His main issues include arranging the town's business affairs to allow tax rate reduction opportunities, improving the environment (including removing stumps from the strand) and seeking government grants and allocations.

Spake lists his primary qualification "my background in business, my focus on progressive and organized growth (and) my conservative fiscal nature."

## Five Seek Three Seats At Yaupon

At Yaupon Beach, three incumbents and two challengers and seeking three seats on the board of commissioners.

Dorothy Kelly, William Smith and High Zachary seek reelection. They are challenged by Jackie Slockett and Linda Vereen.

Smith and Vereen did not respond to the *Beacon* questionnaire.

## Kelly

Dorothy (Dot) Kelly is employed by the Brunswick County ABC Board as general manager. She has attended UNC Chapel Hill and the N.C. School of Real Estate and is a graduate of the Rural Leaders Program at Pembroke State University.

She has been a commissioner since 1989 and was mayor pro tem from 1990-91.

"In seeking reelection, I feel the experience and knowledge I've gained over the past four years will enable me to better serve the people of Yaupon Beach," she said.

Her priority issues include holding the tax rate and balancing the budget while providing services people want, need and expect; continuing fire and rescue services while working to keep them affordable; and beautifying the beach.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Slockett is a secretary at Ocean View United Methodist Church. She is a newcomer to politics and currently serves as treasurer of the Oak Island Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.



Slockett

Slockett said she is running "to become more knowledgeable of our town government and its needs."

Her priority issues are improving communication between the town board and citizens. "Hopefully I can find a way to let the townspeople know of business that takes place at monthly meetings, even if they cannot attend," she said.

## Zachary

Hugh Zachary, a writer, has

served on both the board of commissioners and planning board. He holds a journalism degree from UNC Chapel Hill.

"I've decided to run again because as a 26-year resident I'm interested enough in the future of Yaupon Beach to want to have a voice in it," he said. "I want Yaupon Beach to stay the same quiet, single-family town with a good police force and good fire protection and reasonable taxes. I want any change to be toward a better quality of life."

If reelected, Zachary said he would investigate the possibility of strengthening the anti-noise ordinance, try to hold taxes at the current level, look into burying utility lines, encourage upgrading and beautifying the business district, work to give access to the old causeway and turn it into a recreation area, and continue to repave streets and fight rainwater runoff problems.

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