

STATE & LOCAL

McFarlane Wins Raleigh Mayoral Race

Julia Dent, Staff Writer

On October 11, Nancy McFarlane was elected as the second female mayor of Raleigh. According to Matt Garfield in his article "Raleigh Voters Choose McFarlane as Next Mayor," McFarlane swept Raleigh's first open mayoral race in over a decade in all precincts, winning 61% of the votes with opponents Billie Redmond claiming 30% and Randall Williams finishing with 9%.

McFarlane is following in the footsteps of her predecessor and endorser Mayor Charles Meeker, a Democrat who decided not to run again after serving five terms. She holds him in high regard and hopes to continue what he has done for the city.

"The thing I've heard the most is that people love Raleigh, they love where we are and they want to stay on the right track going forward," said McFarlane on the day of the election. She continued, "Mayor Meeker has done an incredible job over the past 10 years. I'm honored that he thinks I can lead the city" (WRAL News).

McFarlane announced her candidacy in May, running as an Independent. "She ran on a platform of 'continuity,' praising the city and promising to keep

things on their present course," said Dr. Rebecca Duncan, of the Meredith College English department. McFarlane's website lists her copious experiences at leading and keeping Raleigh on its "present course," as she served two terms on city council, is a small business owner, volunteered in classrooms and at PTA, and was the president of the homeowner's association of Greystone residential neighborhood.

Garfield said that McFarlane attributes these roles as her key to leading Raleigh on the road to success and says that she "learned how to be a good listener at the grassroots level, where people are more concerned with solving problems than notching political victories."

Some of these problems that McFarlane hopes to solve listed on her website include sustainable development and protection, enhancing the economy, improving schools and parks, strengthening neighborhoods, creating jobs, and expanding transportation. Despite losing the mayoral race, Redmond has mentioned meeting with McFarlane to work together on these issues.

Both Redmond and Williams con-

gratulated McFarlane with camaraderie after her win and hope to help her in the future, as all three of them came to a consensus on many topics. "The biggest challenge we had is that we are all nice people," said Redmond according to Garfield, "We all sounded alike. Differentiation was the challenge. I told them the other night at the forum, maybe we should just job-share."

WRAL News' article "McFarlane Elected Raleigh Mayor" stated that Williams agreed with Redmond and said, "It's good for Raleigh in many ways there was a consensus among the three candidates on the major issues. The fact we're able to work together and conduct a campaign is one reason we're the Number One place to live in the United States. I think the thing that's impressed me is that I think all three candidates were in it for the right reason. I think they all just love Raleigh."

In "Raleigh Gets Second Woman Mayor," by Sommer Brokaw, McFarlane does indeed seem to love Raleigh and wants it to continue to prosper, as she was quoted praising the city saying, "I have a vision for Raleigh

as a true world-class city that provides choices as to how we live, work and play. But I want to make sure that we always retain the beauty and charm and sense of place that makes us Raleigh."

As for being Raleigh's second female mayor, McFarlane seems to share many of the same interests as the first one, the late Isabella Cannon. Cannon served one term as mayor from 1977 until 1979, and, like McFarlane, she took city planning seriously and focused on improving residential areas. As for being women, that did not seem to hinder or distract the voters from electing them.

"It didn't matter so much that [Cannon] was a woman," says Duncan, "It is possible that opportunities are more open to women at the local level, because the candidates' actions and records are more important than an image they convey...[Cannon's and McFarlane's] campaigns were much more about issues than about individual candidates."

McFarlane will be officially sworn in as mayor of Raleigh in early December. Until then, she will continue planning for the future of Raleigh and its citizens.

Female Football Kicker at South Johnston High

Sarah Potratz, Staff Writer

Of course, we girls have watched at least a few football games, picked up a football a time or two, participated in the powder-puff football game in high school . . . but how many of us can say that we have joined a high school

football team? At South Johnston High School, senior Morgan Gatlin has become the Trojans' new star kicker.

A year ago, family friend Mike Carroll, father of a former South Johnston football player, mentioned the idea of

Gatlin's putting her soccer skills to use and lending a hand – or, rather, a foot – to kick for the team. Although Gatlin did not have much experience with football, she was willing to give it a try. According to Tim Stevens, a reporter writing for the News & Observer, Gatlin said, "I don't know what made Mr. Mike think that I could do this except I have a tendency to shoot high in soccer and knock it over the goal."

Apparently, Carroll was not the only one who saw potential in Gatlin. During a physical education class last December, then-coach Joe Salas watched intently as Gatlin kicked the football. It was clear that she had the talent, but she needed to develop accuracy in order to become the Trojans' new extra-point kicker. Salas asked Gatlin to practice her kicking every Friday, and Gatlin followed through with weekly kicking practice, joining the team for summer training. By the time football season came around, she was just as ready as the rest of the team.

So far this season, Gatlin has been consistent in scoring extra points. According to the News and Observer, she has made 32 of the 38 extra point attempts thus far, and she estimates that

she could hit from roughly 40 yards out.

While Gatlin has worked hard to earn her title as the Trojan's kicker, is she pushing more than the next down? Although many might view Gatlin's decision to join South's football team as pushing the social boundaries, surprisingly enough, there has been a great amount of social acceptance. According to the News & Observer, South Johnston's new coach Shane Dular observed, "The guys knew her and figured she could help us. She was accepted right away. I think the guys just love her to death. And she's helping us."

After reading the article, "South Johnston Finds Female Kicker a Quick Study," Meredith College Athletic Director Jackie Myers noted, "Even though it definitely goes against the norm, I think it's great that she's been able to help out the team and they've embraced her doing so! It's cool too how she knows and accepts that the other kicker who is a guy is stronger overall but that she has more accuracy within her distance range. That way they both get to contribute and that's what teamwork is all about—each one giving their best to help the team achieve success."

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The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the College and through independent advertising. All advertisements should be sent to heraldadvertising@email.meredith.edu.

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the College administration, faculty, or student body.

The policy of this paper requires that submissions be made by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication and that contributors sign all submissions and provide necessary contact information. The editor and staff welcome submissions meeting the above guidelines.

Mission Statement:

The staff of The *Meredith Herald* is committed to representing our diverse community by publicizing local events, by addressing controversy, by cultivating civic engagement and by empowering women.

Publication Schedule:

September 7
September 21
October 5
October 19
November 2

Published by Hinton Press