

# Oak Island

**Polling places:** Oak Island I, Caswell Beach Town Hall; Oak Island II, Oak Island Recreation Center; Oak Island III, Oak Island fire station; Southport II, American Legion Hut, Southport

**To be elected:** One council member each from Yaupon Beach, Long Beach areas

## Councilman (Yaupon Beach area)



**Mack R. Aman**  
411 Trott Street

A former Yaupon Beach commissioner, Aman, 53, has lived on Oak Island for 36 years. He is a construction contractor and a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Oak Island Fishing Club.

**If you are elected, what will be your top three goals as a member of the town's governing board?**

... I would concentrate on three primary issues. The annexation proposal is perhaps my most prominent concern. Isolated council voting on certain topics is another important subject. Finally, the long range traffic planning and control needs to be examined. The proposed annexation of inland property is a perfect example of the current government concentrating on the perimeter instead of the core. ... I see needs for better service with reasonable taxation on the existing town... Issues such as consolidation, annexation, sewer changes, and other upcoming events should be voted on by the people. Another specific problem in the town is long range traffic planning and control, which I ... would find logical means to improve.

**What is your opinion of your town's current year budget? Does it offer services you want to offer in the most affordable manner?**

I have obtained a copy of the budget and studied it carefully. I also have budget experience as commissioner of Yaupon Beach. ...budgets can be a juggling act ... I believe we should concentrate on duplicated, and even vital, services as opposed to those unwanted by the general public. Tax payers should not be paying for services that benefit a select few... Obviously, I don't feel the current budget is perfect. At the same time, I understand that no budget will ever be free of all problems. There is, however, room for improvement, and I intend to help make those changes.

**Why should the voter select you over your opponent(s)?**

If the voters are not 100 percent satisfied with the present governing board, they should not elect incumbents or board-endorsed candidates. This will not bring the much-needed changes. We need new minds, fresh thoughts, and dynamic ideas to make these decisions. Think about the major decisions that could be made next without your vote. Think about what annexation truly means. With no chance to make changes for the next two years, now is the time to act. Send a message to City Hall saying we are not currently satisfied, and I will do my absolute best to appease the general public of our existing town.



**Gary E. Donahue**  
305 Mercer St.  
Age: 41 Occupation: Worker  
Years Resident: 1

Community Activities: None

If elected, my top three goals would be to communicate, communicate, communicate. Residents and distant property owners need to know what is happening around the island and how decisions being made at city hall affect their lives. As a newcomer to Oak Island politics, I am in a unique position to bring a fresh perspective to town government.

The town's budget looks very good, but there is always room for improvement. (Spending) \$29,000 for a thermal imaging camera for the fire department seems a luxury, until one thinks about the benefits. As Dave Adams, of our fire department, says: "If it saves one life, it's worth it." I can only agree. The device will not only expedite rescue of trapped occupants, it will also protect firefighters by detecting hot spots in structures. I will push to modernize the fire department's equipment. We need new trucks. Also, I will lobby for an across-the-board pay increase for town employees...

Some voters have already decided on which candidate they will vote for. I was dismayed to see Dot Kelly wearing an "Elect Scott King" badge at the Oak Island celebration... If elected, I plan to create a web page to keep residents and property owners informed. I am a college graduate... I graduated summa cum laude last year with a degree in communication and political science from Ohio University... But, my favorite discipline is philosophy. I've learned to be a critical thinker. I question things I do not understand and I have the ability to independently search for answers.



**Scott M. King**  
700 Ocean Drive

Appointed to the Yaupon Beach board of commissioners in June, King, 42, became an Oak Island town councilor upon consolidation July 1. He is the owner of an Ocean Drive motel and serves as a member of the town's erosion control committee.

(1) Work with and push for NCDOT to alleviate current and future traffic problems in our growing community. Top of the list should be a second bridge to the island (2) Control growth. While we may not be able to stop our rapid growth, we must keep it under control, so as not to lose our small town identity. (3) We have an opportunity to make our beaches better than they were. For both our enjoyment and the tourism which drives our local economy, we must do what is necessary.

I think that at this point in time, our budget is reasonable and responsive to the variety of our citizens needs. While it is easy to campaign on a platform of lowering taxes, I believe most people realize there is a cost to running a town and it's not going to get less expensive tomorrow. The real challenge is to keep the budgets of the future under control, especially with the lost tax base on the ocean front, and give the citizens the most we can for their hard earned money.

I have picked-up invaluable experience in these few short months (appointed mid-June) working with the existing town council, working on the budget, consolidation, future town needs, and of course, Floyd. I feel I have worked well with my fellow council members and believe that is important when it comes to getting things done. We are going to have some tough decisions in the future and I believe it is imperative that our town council work together to keep our town going in the right direction, never forgetting what drew us here in the first place.



**John (Pop) Wolfe**  
1100 Live Oak Drive

Wolfe, 79, is a retired engineer who became an island resident nine years ago. He is active as a volunteer with several organizations, including: Cub Scouts, Doshier Hospital, Southport Elementary School, South Brunswick High School Aquaculture program, Brunswick Literacy Council, Brunswick County Highway 211 water treatment plant, Southport wastewater treatment plant, youth sailing program, soccer, Friends of the Library, Southport Maritime Museum, Brunswick County Airport, N.C. Aquariums, N.C. Coastal Federation, WHQR and UNC-TV.

(1) High quality drinking water. (2) Sewers where needed. (3) More parks.

Need more info on this.

Because the voter thinks I'm a better choice.

## Councilman (Long Beach area)



**R. David Felts**  
304 NE 50th Street

A member of Citizens Advocating Safe Traffic (CAST), Felts, 47, is a state probation and parole officer. He has lived in Long Beach and Oak Island for one year.

If I am elected, my top priority would be to extend sewer to all of the Town of Oak Island as soon as humanly possible. The storm showed how vulnerable our present system is with septic tanks uncovered on the beach and flooded all over the Island. (2) I feel we must have a second bridge now at Middleton. I completely support all help with the traffic condition. I am also a member of C.A.S.T. (3) Beach renourishment is a must now. We need a long term plan also.

The town's current budget does adequately cover most of the needs of the town, but I feel that we need to get our priorities straight. The most money needs to be spent on the most important items. We need to definitely spend more toward sewer and beach renourishment. We also need to support police, fire, EMS and water rescue. If we concentrate on what needs doing, we can accomplish it within our allotted budget.

I would like to serve the town because I absolutely love our island. I want our town to always have a family atmosphere and, to this end, I support keeping the height restrictions to keep out high rise hotels and not turn us into another Myrtle Beach. I am concerned with the needs of all the citizens of the island and am not a one-issue candidate. To this end, I will leave myself open to any suggestions of anyone. I feel growth is coming and we need to approach the new millennium with a plan to channel this growth and still keep the character of our Island.



**Ed Kivett**  
114 SW 21st Street

A retired, five-year resident of Oak Island, Kivett, 62, is a past member of the Long Beach Family Fest Committee and has been a supporter of the Newcomers' Club and the town beautification committee. He has participated in Arbor Day tree planting activities and currently attends most town council meetings.

Encourage and work with everyone on this island that favors a second bridge. Solve the problem and get it done. Be sensitive to all infrastructure issues and support managed growth and development. (2) Work with town council to keep taxes affordable and expenditures qualified and accountable. (3) Support sewer for all in our corporate limits and enforceable ordinances for protection of our trees, waterways, wetlands and beaches.

We have a hard working town staff, which provides many needed services. Town council needs to do a better job of prioritizing projects based on cost/benefit analysis, to better support staff and better utilize our tax dollars. We need more disclosure on the grants we are receiving and what they end up costing the town. We need more checks and balances on expenditures. Future fiscal budgets are even a larger concern due to the loss of much of our tourist tax base.

I attend council meetings and feel I can better serve my constituents as a member of the council, instead of simply sitting in the audience. I can use my background in engineering, emergency response, fire protection and safety and health management in industry to contribute to sound decision making. I will be open to suggestions and concerns and will not favor any special interest group. I want to serve the citizens and be their representative for direct input in the business of Oak Island.



**H. Michael Oxford**  
1907 West Yacht Drive

Incumbent councilor Oxford, 47, has lived in Long Beach and Oak Island for 23 years. He was twice elected to Long Beach Board of Commissioners, serving 1979 to 1987. He was elected to town council in 1997. Currently, he serves as Oak Island's representative to the Brunswick Beaches Consortium. He has served the Long Beach Capital Improvements Committee and its ABC board. He has been active with Southport Primary School advisory board. He is a Mason and Shriner.

(1) I believe the rebuilding of our beach, working to save as much of our tax base and infrastructure as practical, returning our town to normal services and operation is an obtainable and necessary goal for us to work toward. (2) ...there remains a tremendous amount of work to do in the consolidation process. All contracts, ordinances, and procedures have to be reworked to finalize the consolidation of our towns... (3) I will continue to plan for the second bridge and will try to remove any stumbling blocks that have been placed in the way of such a vitally important necessity ...

I believe the current year budget is as reasonable as could be adopted with all the unknowns that accompany consolidation. With this in mind, I believe there has been no reduction of quality or quantity of services offered by either town. It is my vision that we will see real savings as this united board continues to look for better, easier, more cost-effective ways of providing these services.

If reelected, I will continue to weigh the pros and cons of each issue and will cast my vote with the best interests of the citizens of the Town of Oak Island. With 12 years of experience as councilman, I will work without bias to continue the excellent working relationship with fellow council members, the town staff, and most importantly, (you) the citizens of this united town... Our current board has such a good working relationship that I would like to continue to serve with these good people, for together we may accomplish great things for all and be proud to call Oak Island our home.

**Vote**

**Charles McWells**  
Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District

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