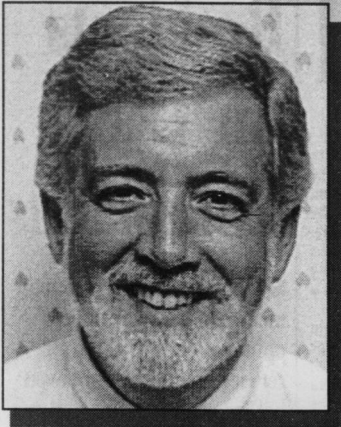


# ELECTIONS Carrboro Mayoral Candidate Profiles ELECTIONS

Carrboro will elect a new mayor Nov. 7. Today, The Daily Tar Heel profiles the three candidates seeking to lead Carrboro as the town copes with new growth and sets priorities for the coming years.

## Randy Marshall



**Age:** 51  
**Address:** 1101 Hillsborough Rd.  
**Position Seeking:** Carrboro mayor  
**Previous Experience:** Carrboro Alderman, nine years; Orange County Visitors Bureau, chair  
**Occupation:** Principal of Carrboro Elementary School  
**Children:** Two  
**Length of Time in Community:** 18 years  
**Colleges Attended:** Elon and UNC

### Development Process Needs To Be Improved

After nine-and-a-half years as a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, 18 years in the community, and several years of experience on the Orange County Visitors Bureau and various other committees, Randy Marshall feels his experience and leadership make him a perfect candidate for the position of Carrboro mayor.

"I have the experience and the leadership the community needs," Marshall said. "Like the new chancellor at the University, Carrboro will have a new mayor. I feel like I have the support of the board, and I think that's important."

Marshall said he felt he could act as a unifying leader of the board if elected mayor. "I'm a moderate on the board," he said. "I think I could be a unifying director of the board. I am uniquely qualified to provide leadership to the board on the whole."

One of the motivating forces behind Marshall's campaign is improving development transactions. "I think we need to look very carefully at every development that comes before the board," he said.

The board sets up regulations with which developers must comply, Marshall said. Most of the developers do comply with these regulations, but the board turns down or delays the projects anyway. The board needs to work out a better way of informing developers of what is expected of them before they bring their ideas to the board.

"I think we should play fair," Marshall said. "We need to look at our zoning and our permits before the developers spend a lot of time and money on their plans. It's terribly awkward to have them do exactly what our ordinances say and then tell them no."

Bringing in business to the community is also an issue of concern with Marshall. "We've got a lot of vacant space," he said. "That is a loss of money. We want to fill

vacancies." One such vacancy is the spot left by Roses when it moved out of Carrboro Plaza, Marshall said. Roses brought in tax revenue to the community, and the town now needs to replace it, he said. "It was a real blow to the economy."

As for development, Marshall said he was concerned about carefully mixing residential and commercial areas. "I think development is one of the greatest sources of interest in the community," he said. "People move here wanting that small-town charm. Some are concerned (about losing the small-town charm), especially in the Northern area."

Marshall said he supported the Small Area Plan for Carrboro's Northern Transition Area. "We want to prevent people to drive long distances to get to places like Harris Teeter," he said. "It's a good mixed-use development. It's a positive concept, and I support it."

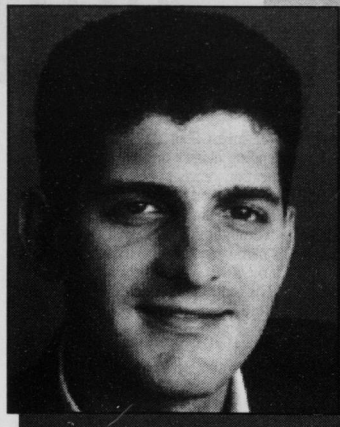
The services offered by the town are beneficial to the community and must be protected, Marshall said. "We're offering excellent services to Carrboro," he said. "Despite our high tax rate, we're doing it economically. We balance our budget and have one of the best credit ratings for a town our size."

The Visitors Bureau, of which Marshall is the chairman, is a success story for the town, he said. "The Orange County Board of Visitors has gone from almost nothing two years ago to something fantastic," he said. "The whole idea (of the bureau) is to let people with contact with visitors know of ways to keep people here."

Visitors and the revenue they bring in are valuable resources for the town, Marshall said. "It saves Carrboro money because taxes are not raised; the visitors contribute."

PROFILE COMPILED BY SUZANNE WOOD

## Mike Nelson



**Age:** 31  
**Address:** 105 Fidelity St., Apt. A #22  
**Position Seeking:** Carrboro mayor  
**Previous Experience:** Board of Aldermen, two years of first term; Landfill Owners Group  
**Occupation:** Travel agent at Main Street Travel  
**Children:** None  
**Length of Time in Community:** Eight years  
**College Attended:** UNC

### Town Should Protect Environmental Concerns

For second-year Carrboro Alderman Mike Nelson, focusing on fighting bad development projects and protecting the environment are the two issues motivating his campaign for Carrboro mayor this fall.

"My No. 1 reason for running is for controlling growth," he said. "I have a record on the board for standing up and fighting development that I don't agree with. I think it is important for a mayor to stand up and say no to developers when the developer's plans are bad for the community."

Nelson cited the Hogan Farm development of last year as an example of how he has stood up to faulty development plans in the past.

"We turned down the development in a 4-3 vote," he said. "But, we worked with the developer to remap the plan. The product we came up with was much better than the original plan."

"We didn't just say no," Nelson said. "We sat down and worked it out. That says something for the community—that we're willing to sit down and talk."

Nelson also wants to play an active role in determining how the Carrboro community grows. "Carrboro is on the verge of experiencing an explosion of growth," he said. "Our population will almost double in the next 15 years. We can either grow in a smart way by protecting the environment or in a dumb way."

"Some people have come into Carrboro and have done some creative things (in developing)," Nelson said. "I would be interested in working with developers who focus on the environment."

Nelson said the Revolving Loan Fund, which is primarily for small businesses owned by women and minorities, had been very effective in developing the commercial aspect of the town.

"It has been very effective," he said. "In

order to be a well-rounded community, we have to work very hard to have a well-rounded and healthy business community."

Another concern for Nelson is how Carrboro will deal with its solid waste. "I've been active in increasing our recycling project," he said. "Right now, we have a study being done on how to deal with solid waste. I want to focus on that. Orange County thinks of itself as progressive, but it's not in the issue of solid waste."

The fact that the future landfill will be placed in a moderate-income black neighborhood raises questions with Nelson.

"Is that fair?" Nelson asked. "Is part of it just convenience because they're less likely to fight it?"

Nelson said his previous experience on the board would help him work efficiently as mayor on such issues as development, the environment and social issues.

"I've learned the board's dynamics," he said. "I've been involved in getting some things passed and can set goals and know how to meet those goals."

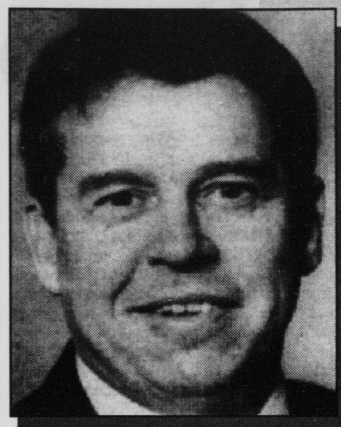
In the past, Nelson has helped in setting up the Environment Advisory Board and the Domestic Partners program.

Besides having experience working with the board, Nelson feels he would bring a unique perspective to the mayor's position. "Being a renter in the community gives me a different perspective than a homeowner," he said. "Being gay and young also gives me a different perspective."

Nelson said he thought the current board had dealt well with the issues brought before it and that the board was pleased with the handling of the budget. "I am very proud of how we run our town government," he said. "The more I learn about it, the more I see how we run efficiently on so little."

PROFILE COMPILED BY SUZANNE WOOD

## Charles Riggsbee



**Age:** 50  
**Address:** 103 Quail Roost Dr.  
**Position Seeking:** Carrboro mayor  
**Previous Experience:** Carrboro Planning Board  
**Occupation:** Insurance salesman  
**Children:** Two  
**Length of Time in Community:** 50 years  
**College Attended:** UNC

### Board Should Be More Responsive to Public

Charles Riggsbee, a long-time resident and candidate for Carrboro mayor, sees the need for a more representative government and for more public referendums on issues.

Riggsbee, who was born and raised in Carrboro, feels he knows what the town needs in government and how to go about meeting those needs.

"I'm a life-long resident of Carrboro," he said. "I probably know the area better than the other candidates. From that respect, I think I would be able to get along better with the older Carrboro residents. In general, I think that is a plus for the mayor."

As a former member of the Carrboro Planning Committee, Riggsbee said he saw several things he would like to change about the town government if elected to the mayor's office.

"I would like to see a more representative government," Riggsbee said. "We should put bigger, more expensive things on the agenda and let the public make comments."

Bigger issues should be put to referendums so that people can vote on them, Riggsbee said. People are more likely to vote on an issue than come to a public hearing and speak out against it, he said.

One issue Riggsbee said he wished the board had put on a referendum was the domestic partners issue. "I'm the only candidate who came out against it," he said. "I think this should have been put on a referendum. There was a public hearing, but I think most people would not have stood up and talked about it."

Riggsbee said he was concerned about the way the domestic partners issue was handled. "I am against the issue, not because I'm against homosexuals and gays, but because it's a divisive issue," he said.

The domestic partners law was approved because board members, not the public,

wanted it, Riggsbee said. "I think we have it now not because we had a groundswell of people who wanted it, but because we had one elected official who wanted it."

Riggsbee said he was concerned about the private agendas of the board members. "I think with the current board, a consensus is more important than personal opinions," Riggsbee said. "They voice concern, but everybody seems to go along with everybody in the end. The people aren't being served in this process."

Riggsbee said there is a need to look at the way the town makes out its budget. "Taxes in Carrboro are higher than surrounding municipalities," he said. "We need to take a serious look at them. A lot of people have already left town because of the high cost of living here."

Development is also an issue of concern for Riggsbee. He said forcing developers to delay their projects at the board's request cost the community money in the long run. "The delays cost money to the developer, and it usually hurts the renters by raising their rent," he said.

The cost of living in Carrboro is also a concern for Riggsbee. "I am running because I am dissatisfied with the way the present board is moving," he said. "On every new development that comes before the board, the developer must leave at least 40 percent (of the land) open (without development). I am against this."

Riggsbee also said he was interested in implementing the Small Area Plan for Carrboro's Northern Transition Area. "Mainly, Carrboro is a residential area," he said. "Small businesses are important, especially away from the central business area (of Carrboro). I think we need a better mix of business and residential areas."

"I think a lot of government is about using common sense."

PROFILE COMPILED BY SUZANNE WOOD

**Romano's Pizza Kitchen**  
Fast, Free Delivery • 929-5005

- Pizza made from scratch
- Delicious Italian dinners
- Mouthwatering sandwiches

Lunch & Dinner

Don't forget! Every time you enjoy a meal from Romano's, we will make a donation to the Ronald McDonald House and the American Red Cross!

Just down the road...

**AQUEDUCT CONFERENCE CENTER**  
founded in 1978

Only three miles from UNC Campus lies a meeting planner's dream...  
Seclusion, comfort, & state-of-the-art facilities.  
Stay for a day or a week.

Mt. Carmel Church Road, Chapel Hill  
Pamela McLamb, Director of Sales (919)933-5557

**FREE PRE-MED SEMINAR**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Improve Your Chances of Getting Into Med School!**

- ✓ Strategies that pay off
- ✓ Acing the MCAT
- ✓ Med school application
- ✓ Admissions & Interviewing

**SPEAKER: Stephen D. Bresnick, M.D.**  
Pre-medical Expert  
Stanford University

**TIME: Thursday, October 5th at 7pm!**  
**PLACE: Hill Ballroom, 1st Floor, Carolina Inn**

**Thursday 7:00pm!**

Hosted by: Columbia MCAT Review

**RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER**

**DONATE PLASMA!**

**Earn \$20 Today as a New Donor**  
For your and others' benefit.

PLEASE PRESENT AD WHEN DONATING

**SERA-TEC BIOLOGICALS**  
109 1/2 E. FRANKLIN ST. • M-F 10-6 (expires 10/6/95) 942-0251

**USA FARES**

|               |       |             |       |
|---------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| SAN FRANCISCO | \$180 | PHOENIX     | \$180 |
| LOS ANGELES   | 180   | DENVER      | 180   |
| SAN DIEGO     | 180   | ALBUQUERQUE | 180   |
| LAS VEGAS     | 180   | SEATTLE     | 180   |

Fares are STUDENT fares, from Raleigh/Durham, each way based on a round trip purchase. International Student ID may be required. Taxes & surcharges are NOT included. Fares may change without notice.

CALL FOR A FREE "STUDENT TRAVEL" MAGAZINE!

**Council Travel**  
CIEE: Council on International Educational Exchange  
Internet: <http://www.ciee.org/cts/ctshome.htm>  
137 E. Franklin St., #106, Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
**942-2334**