

LOCAL ELECTIONS MEET THE C

ENDORSEMENT KEY:

CAN: Community Action Network
PBA: The North Carolina Police Benevolent Association
SPCH: Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill
Sierra: Sierra Club
CNC: Coalition of Neighbors near Campus
Indy: Independent Weekly
HABC: Hank Anderson Breakfast Club
CHN: The Chapel Hill News
FAF: Orange County Friends of Affordable Housing
DTH: The Daily Tar Heel

Hopefuls fill election platter

BY EMILY VASQUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill Town Council and Carrboro Board of Aldermen elections are traditionally low-key affairs in Orange County.

Still, Chapel Hill's election stands out this year due to the number of candidates vying for four seats on the Town Council — 12 in all.

"By historic standards, this is going to be remembered as a remarkably lively, vigorous but also civil campaign," said incumbent candidate Bill Strom.

Despite the spirited debate raised by so many different perspectives, candidates worry that voter participation still might be lacking, especially in a year when Mayor Kevin Foy ran unchallenged until the week before elections.

"People are just far more interested if the mayor's position is contested," said former council member Joe Herzenberg, who served on the council for 12 years.

Write-in mayoral candidate Pat Killian declared her ambitions too late to participate in any forums.

Candidates also recognize that it has been a challenge for the community to become familiar with 12 platforms.

In efforts to draw attention to the race and distinguish their platforms, candidates have participated in a series of forums and completed numerous questionnaires.

But some candidates worry that the forums, many of which were televised but not well attended, did not provide the community with an adequate opportunity to understand their platforms.

"I think the voters would be better served if we could create a forum where there was more opportunity for rebuttal, debate, to make corrections," said incumbent

candidate Jim Ward.

Candidates stressed that the extra efforts have meant a sizable investment of time and resources over the course of the election.

In Carrboro, local elections — which involve only four candidates for three seats on the Board of Aldermen — have taken a different flavor.

The elections have received more attention since write-in mayoral candidate Jeff Vanke challenged incumbent Mike Nelson, raising significant contention.

Vanke heatedly has criticized Carrboro's five-year plan as well as several other initiatives led by Nelson.

In the race for Board of Aldermen, incumbents Joal Broun and Alex Zaffron have been challenged by Steve Rose, who claims that the current board has not listened adequately to the concerns of the community at large. Meanwhile, Mark Chilton, the second challenger, thinks only slight "tweaking" is necessary in terms of revising the board's policies.

By filling out questionnaires like those in Chapel Hill and attending forums, candidates have presented their views on five-story buildings downtown, economic expansion, development and taxation.

Though the four candidates more easily can distinguish their platforms, the demands of the race still have been considerable.

"It's been tough. This year there have been many more forums," Broun said.

Media coverage also has increased this year, she said.

"Overall, it's been a pretty congenial race — a good, clean fight," Chilton said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

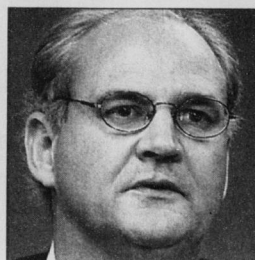
CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL



DIANNE BACHMAN

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 3/12/1947
Years lived in Triangle: 15
Job: Project architect/manager, UNC Dept. of Facilities Planning
Other offices held include Chapel Hill Community Design Commission
Endorsements: PBA, CAN

www.bachmanforcouncil.com



THATCHER FREUND

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 9/13/1955
Years lived in Triangle: 10
Job: Author
Other offices held include Chapel Hill Town Planning Board, Chapel Hill Community Design Commission
Endorsements: PBA, HABC

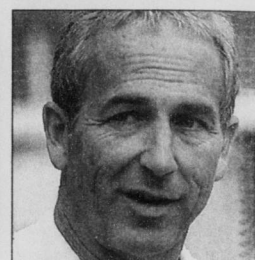
www.thatcherfreund.com



SALLY GREENE

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 10/19/1955
Years lived in Triangle: 16
Job: Consultant lawyer
Other offices held include Chapel Hill Town Planning Board
Endorsements: Sierra, PBA, SPCH, CNC, Indy, CHN, HABC, FAF, DTH

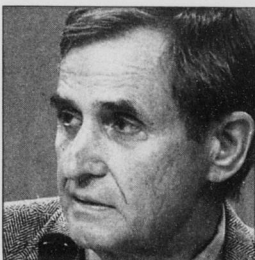
www.sallygreene.org



CAM HILL

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 2/25/1953
Years lived in Triangle: 50
Job: Builder and home inspector
Other offices held include UNC's Carolina North Committee, Horace Williams Advisory Committee
Endorsements: CHN, Indy, Sierra, CNC

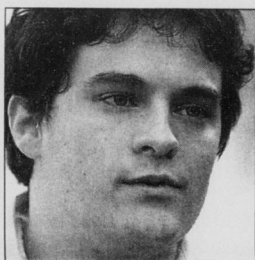
www.Cam4Council.org



RUDY JULIANO

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 7/18/1941
Years lived in Triangle: 17
Job: Professor of pharmacology, UNC School of Medicine
Other offices held include President of the Coker Hills Neighborhood Association
Endorsements: DTH

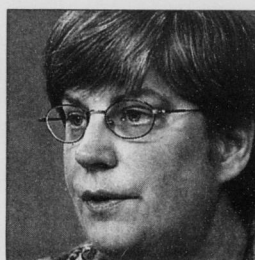
www.rudyjuliano.com



MIKE MCSWAIN

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 4/20/1982
Years lived in Triangle: 3
Job: UNC senior; Starbucks barista
Other offices held include Student Liaison to the Town Council
Endorsements: none

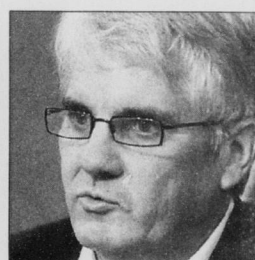
www.mikemcswain.net



ANDREA ROHRBACHER

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 12/20/1952
Years lived in Triangle: 23
Job: Information scientist for GlaxoSmithKline
Other offices held include Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Commission
Endorsements: Indy, Sierra, CAN

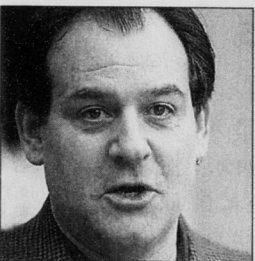
www.andrea2003.org



DOUG SCHWORER

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 2/5/1954
Years lived in Triangle: 10
Job: President of WEB Telecommunications
Other offices held include Chandler's Green Homeowners Association
Endorsements: none

www.votedoug2003.com



BILL STROM

Incumbent
Date of Birth: 5/26/1956
Years lived in Triangle: 18
Job: retired; Town Council member
Other offices held include Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Endorsements: Sierra, Indy, CHN, HABC, FAF, CHN, PBA, SPCH, DTH

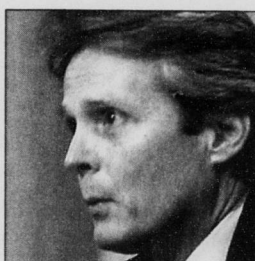
www.stromforcouncil.com



TERRI TYSON

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 1/31/1956
Years lived in Triangle: 14
Job: community volunteer
Other offices held include Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Commission
Endorsements: CAN

www.tysonforcouncil.com



JIM WARD

Incumbent
Date of Birth: 3/28/1949
Years lived in Triangle: 28
Job: N.C. Botanical Garden Curator; Town Council member
Other offices held include Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Commission
Endorsements: CAN, DTH, CHN, HABC, FAF

www.jim-ward.org

WOODROW BARFIELD (Not pictured)

Not Incumbent
Date of Birth: 11/29/1950
 *Woodrow Barfield declined to respond to the request for profile information

Candidate forums help form opinions

BY CHRIS MCLAUGHLIN
STAFF WRITER

Local political forums have allowed Chapel Hill Town Council candidates to express policy views and push individual platforms.

At the Sierra Club forum, the main topics of discussion were Carolina North, transportation proposals and the bond referendum.

Candidate Rudy Juliano said he favored building a rail line connecting UNC to Carolina North, and incumbent Bill Strom pushed for the town to handle the transit needs of the future satellite campus.

Regarding the town's \$29.4 million bond package, candidates Doug Schworer and Terri Tyson disagreed with the majority, saying that the energy bank and open space bonds were fiscally inefficient.

An unexpected topic that came up at the Sierra Club forum was the candidates' stances on the town's red light cameras. After debating the topic, all candidates except Dianne Bachman and incumbent Jim Ward opposed the program.

Traffic issues were key during the Chapel Hill Herald's forum, during which candidates debated the issue of additional campus parking.

Candidate Mike McSwain said UNC's request for parking was reasonable, but candidate Cam Hill said the council let the town down by allowing parking lots to be built next to a historic neighborhood.

Controversy erupted when the forum's moderator asked if service to both UNC and the town might be at odds with each other. Hill said those employed at UNC in administration and expansion might have conflicts of interest on zoning issues.

Bachman, an architect in the

University's Facilities Planning Department, printed an advertisement that criticized Hill's stance and defended her occupation the day after the UNC Student Government forum. The controversy heated up at the forum when resident Will Raymond accused Bachman of compromising herself after campaign finance reports revealed she had accepted thousands of dollars from UNC administrators and developers with contractual ties to the University.

A large focus of the Community Action Network's forum was the proposed merger between the county's two school systems.

Candidates were hesitant to discuss merger as a council issue since the town lacks authority over the issue, but Tyson and Schworer expressed staunch opposition.

At the League of Women Voters forum, candidates debated town intervention in the University's decision-making process.

Schworer said, "We are trying to maintain a world-class university in this town," in response to Strom's concern that UNC does not always take town interest into account.

Concerns about affordable housing surfaced again at the Friends of Sunrise forum, during which the main issue was a proposed Habitat for Humanity development near the Sunrise area.

Tyson argued for infill construction within developed areas rather than in open areas, where the Habitat homes might be built.

Candidates seemed weary by the forum's conclusion but said the debates helped educate local voters.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Major library bond an

BY SHANNAN BOWEN
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents will have the opportunity today to vote on general obligation bonds, used to finance public town projects in future years.

Chapel Hill's proposed \$29.4 million bond package — the largest in town history — would be used to finance long-term projects such as parks and libraries.

Carrboro's proposal includes one bond of \$4.6 million for sidewalk and greenway construction in the town.

Because bonds are paid for by town residents, they require approval through an Election Day referendum.

The Chapel Hill bond ballot asks voters if they support the following bonds: sidewalks, open space, greenways, libraries and the "energy bank."

The bond items would help finance major capital projects, including the approved Town Operations Center, green infrastructure and expansion of the Chapel Hill Public Library.

The Carrboro bond resolution plans to use a portion of the funds to create a greenway along a portion of Bolin Creek in the Horace Williams tract.

Dorothy Verkerk, a Chapel Hill Town Council member and chairwoman of the "Invest in Chapel Hill" bond campaign,

emphasized that the projects will be voted on as a single package.

The \$2 million open-space bond would enable the town to acquire tracts of land for recreation purposes.

The sidewalk bond, totaling \$5.6 million, would be used to construct curbs, crosswalk signals, traffic controls and lighting needed for pedestrian pathways.

The \$16.26 million library bond would expand the building from 27,300 to 75,000 square feet by 2025. More books, computers and seating would be added.

Council member Mark Kleinschmidt said the library needs additional funds to serve the growing town appropriately.

"We have the most arguably the best library in town," she said. "But the facility is inadequate."

A greenways bond of \$2 million would fund walking and biking paths along Morgan Creek.

A \$500,000 bond would fund the "energy bank" to fund the in energy improvements in town.

The town now is paying off debt from past bonds, but Director James Baker said new bonds will replace past debt.

Phasing the projects into the plan would reduce the financial impact and additional debt service r