

WACCAMAW ELECTS MAYOR MAY 4

# Incumbent Bardon Battles Pair Of Fund-Raising Challengers

BY DOUG RUTTER

Waccamaw Mayor Norman Bardon will literally have to buy more votes than his two challengers over the next few weeks if he hopes to hang on to the powerless post he's held the last two years.

Bardon is up against candidates Jeanette King and Gilbert Milligan as he seeks a third consecutive term as mayor of Waccamaw—an unofficial position given each year to the

person who raises the most money for the community's volunteer fire and rescue squad.

The farming community between Shallotte and the Waccamaw River will hold its 1991 "election" Saturday, May 4, at 6 p.m. at the fire station on N.C. 130 West. The candidate who turns in the most money will be elected mayor.

"It's all a play thing," Bardon explained. "Most of all we want to

keep our fire and rescue squad going. That's the most important."

Bardon, a native of Waccamaw, said he hopes to collect more than the \$1,640 he raised last year to get elected.

"I'd love to get \$2,000 this year if I could," the retiree said. "Tell the people to be looking out for me cause I will be coming around."

Bardon's biggest accomplishment as mayor has been the installation of the community's first flashing traffic signal. The state put it up last year at the intersection of N.C. 130 and Waccamaw School Road.

"I'm not much of a politician," said the former commercial fisherman. "We're hoping to do better and do some more improvements to the Ash area."

Ms. King, runner-up to Bardon in the 1989 mayor's race, is hoping for a different result this time around.

"I figure the one who works the hardest to raise money for the fire and rescue squad is the winner," she

said. "Whatever it takes to help the squad, I'll do it."

If she's elected, Ms. King has a specific goal in mind for her community. "We'll make Waccamaw Fire and Rescue one of the best squads in the county if I become mayor. I'm going to make every member of the department work extra hard. Everybody has to do their part."

Ms. King, who owns a small family farm, knows what hard work is all about. She grows tobacco and soybean and raises livestock on the 14-acre farm.

The Ash native said the election is a lot of fun. "It raises the most money for the fire and rescue squad without any expenses," she said. "It's a challenge for everybody."

Milligan, a newcomer to the Waccamaw political scene, said he has one campaign promise.

"I will represent each and every one of them equally," he said. "I'll do my best to do a good job."

If elected mayor, Milligan said he will try to pin down the boundaries of Waccamaw, which includes Myrtle Head, Exum, Little Prong, Russtown, Freeland and other areas.

A semi-retired carpenter, Milligan was born and raised in Ash. He lived in Wilmington for 25 years, but returned to his home community in 1973.

"I've got two strong candidates running against me," he said. "I'm really going to have to get out there door to door if I'm going to win."

Milligan said it's the mayor's job to keep harmony in the community and keep the people informed. Mayors also have to listen to the complaints of residents and pass them on to people who can do something about them.

Besides electing a mayor May 4, community residents will be able to buy refreshments at the fire station and enjoy entertainment provided by Tony Clewis and his band from Old Dock.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER  
**POLITICAL NEWCOMER Gilbert Milligan says one of his goals as mayor would be to pin down the boundaries of Waccamaw.**



BEACON FILE PHOTO  
**NORMAN BARDON, left, is seeking election to a third consecutive term as mayor of Waccamaw. Jeanette King, right, is one of two challengers.**

## BALD HEAD WANTS POST OFFICE

# Redwine Sponsors Bill To Improve Brunswick Town

State Rep. David Redwine introduced local bills last week that would fund improvements at Brunswick Town State Historic Site and allow Bald Head Island to operate a contract post office.

House Bill 631 would allocate \$325,000 to the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources for capital improvements at the historic site at Orton, according to Redwine's weekly legislative report.

"Our historic site is in desperate need of repairs and renovations," Redwine said. "It has been a number of years since the state spent any money at the site and, even though the state is having serious budget problems, I feel that we need to get the issue before the General Assembly in case there is money for these kinds of expenditures in the future."

Redwine said the Village of Bald Head Island requested legislation that would allow for the operation of a contract post office. Village officials want to improve postal service to the island.

Also last week, the state representative introduced a "blank bill" that would allow Brunswick County commissioners and school board members to redraw district lines.

The county has five residency districts for commissioners and board of education members that are set up so the population in each district is equal and each district is represented on the boards.

Redwine said populations in the five districts aren't even, according to the 1990 census, and the district lines need to be redrawn.

Existing state law requires county commissioners to redraw the residing districts after holding a referendum. The law does not allow school boards to redraw district lines.

"It is thought by many in the General Assembly that the referendum provision is not needed," Redwine said, "that county commissioners should be able to take the census data and redraw the lines without a referendum, and that

boards of education should also have their residing lines redrawn."

If the state legislature doesn't address the issue on a statewide basis, Redwine said the local bill would allow the county to correct district lines.

Redwine also introduced a bill last week to amend the charter for the City of Southport so the position of tax collector would be placed under the city manager's supervision. The city requested the legislation.

On a statewide level, Redwine reported that he sponsored a bill that would change the renewal cycle for a general driver's license from four years to five years.

"This would enable people to keep their license a year longer before time for renewal and would save some costs to the people of the state," Redwine said.

Also last week, the Brunswick County legislator introduced a bill that would appropriate \$800,000 for expansion and support of United Cerebral Palsy Centers.

It would give \$570,000 as match-

ing capital funds to expand therapeutic pre-schools in Wilmington, Greenville and Charlotte and \$230,000 for general support.

## GOP's Payne Calls New Oak Island II Election

Brunswick County Republican Party Chairman James Payne has scheduled a new Oak Island II precinct election after declaring the first null because three people were found to be ineligible to vote.

At a GOP executive committee meeting last Thursday, Payne appointed a committee to supervise a new election May 14 for the precinct chairmanship, said Nancy Conn, immediate past vice president of the party. She was Oak Island II vice chairman at the time of the first election.

Johnny Vereen, the mayor of Long Beach and precinct chairman for eight years, was re-elected at the Feb. 21 precinct meeting on a 17-to-15 vote. Bobbie Larrison received 15 votes. Vereen, who was conducting the meeting, relinquished the chair to John Ramsey, Smithville Township chairman, to conduct the elections.

Bill Sisk, a Long Beach policeman and former candidate for sheriff, nominated Vereen for chairman.

However, Sisk resides at 5400 E. Yacht Drive, Long Beach, and is registered to vote in Oak Island I precinct, not Oak Island II. The dividing line for Oak Island's two precincts is 50th Street.

Also disqualified are Paul Adams, who registered in the precinct too late to vote at the meeting, and Daphne Cooper, who lives in the precinct but is registered as a Democrat.

Payne has appointed GOP township chairperson David Bright, secretary Marty Cooke and treasurer Phil Norris to conduct the new elec-

tion May 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Long Beach Recreation Center.

Payne called for the new election on the basis of a clause in the party plan of organization that says that when a precinct "fails to properly organize" the county chairman is to appoint a temporary chairman to serve until a general membership meeting can be called and an new chairman elected.

Mrs. Larrison called the procedural problem to Payne's attention after she tried to get a copy of the precinct meeting attendance sheet from Vereen.

Vereen first provided a computer print-out of the list of delegates to the county GOP convention held last month. Sisk's address was listed incorrectly as 4500 E. Yacht Drive, which would have placed him in Oak Island II precinct.

His actual address, 5400 E. Yacht Drive, was apparently listed correctly on the precinct attendance sheet, which Payne eventually received a copy of from Vereen.

Payne has said he has no reason to believe the individuals involved acted anything other than honestly or forthrightly, that the incident appeared to be the result of innocent mistakes.

"We can't say how they voted," said Mrs. Conn of the three ineligible voters, "but we know the vote is off because of them."

She said precinct officers did not check credentials of anyone attending the precinct meeting the night of the election.

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