

# Leland Mayor, Town Council Face Challengers

Voters in Leland will decide Tuesday if the present mayor and two town council members should continue the job of building a town that incorporated in 1989.

Mayor Russell Baldwin faces a challenge from S.L. Doty, who served as mayor of Kure Beach for 11 years.

Councilmembers Lynette Carlisle and Jane Gilbert occupy the two town council seats up for grabs. They are seeking re-election, but also in the race is Thomas D. Hyatt. Ms. Gilbert, Hyatt and Doty are campaigning together.

## S.L. DOTY

Doty says Leland needs a mayor "who will be responsive to the needs of the people."

He served as mayor of Kure Beach (1970-81), as mayor pro-tem and town commissioner there. He

was also chief of the Kure Beach Fire Department and chairman of the New Hanover County Fireman's Association in 1969.

The pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodburn is married to Carolyn S. Doty and has four children. He is a graduate of Gray High in Winston-Salem and Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute.

"The town also needs a mayor who will work to establish harmony within the town, the surrounding community and other state and federal government officials," he said.

Doty served on the Lower Cape Fear Council of Governments board and New Hanover County's Hazardous Waste Commission.

He believes Leland should eliminate unnecessary spending and utilize existing resources more efficiently, so "funds will be more readily available to address the routine needs of the citizens."

"I am strongly opposed to any tax increases during this term," said Doty, "and this common sense approach to spending is what is needed to realize that goal."

If elected, he said he would oppose closed-door meetings and want a town attorney present at all meetings.

"I believe the meetings should be open, except in extreme situations," said Doty, "and citizens should be encouraged to participate."

"I have 10 good years of experience," he added. "I care for people. My record will show that I work with people, for the people and by the people. This is the democratic process which our nation stands for, not a dictatorship."

## LYNETTE CARLISLE

Ms. Carlisle, elected to the council in 1989, also serves on the Brunswick County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

A graduate of Miller-Motte Business College, she is employed by LCP Chemical Co. of Leland, where she has worked for 25 years. She and her husband, Bernie, have a son.

Ms. Carlisle has been active in town politics, serving as chairman

## Belville Seats Unopposed

Belville Mayor Kenneth Messer and two candidates for the town council are running unopposed.

Incumbents Trindalyn Boswell and Wanda Watson chose not to run for re-election to the town council. Filing for their seats are Markland S. Carper and Cindy Messer, wife of Mayor Messer.

The mayor is elected every two years, and commissioners serve four-year terms.

Carper, 43, a self-employed plumber and wastewater system operator, was the only candidate to return a questionnaire to The Brunswick Beacon.

He is a 1964 graduate of Parkland High in Winston-Salem and studied plumbing at Cape Fear Community College. He received his state license in 1986.

A political newcomer, Carper is active in area little league baseball and is a former resident of Long Beach.

Since he has no business interest in the town, he said, "I feel I would listen to the people with an open ear and mind. I think the area has great promise."

The town needs a sewer and water system, park and recreational area with a Brunswick River access and to enact and enforce a building code, he said.

An area on the river would serve as a "place for old and young to go and enjoy, picnic, fish," said Carper.

The town also needs to clean up its commercial and residential property, he added. A sewer system would help environmentally since the town rests on the river and would also help open up the land potential, he said.

of the Leland Planning Commission, chairman of the Leland Health and Sanitation Commission and personnel officer for the town.

She also served on the board of directors of the Leland Civic Association that helped incorporate the town and serves as an officer at the First Baptist Church of Woodburn.

"Beginning a new town is an exciting challenge," said Ms. Carlisle. "The organization of the police department and the sewer system is not completed. I would like to see this work finished."

She said the building of a police department is a "tremendous undertaking and needs 100 percent support from council." A sewer system is needed for commercial development, she added.

Residential areas are experiencing problems with septic tanks, and a sewer system would "make a positive impact on the town's future," she added.

"I have worked positively for the last two years," said Ms. Carlisle. "I make responsible decisions that are the best for the majority. I understand the time and dedication required to do the best job, and give what is required. It's hard work, fun, educational and I love the challenge."

## RUSSELL G. BALDWIN

Baldwin, a former newspaper editor, graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill (1950) with a degree in political science and journalism.

He served as president of the Leland Civic Association in 1989, as chairman of the Leland Charter Commission and serves on the executive board of the Brunswick County Educational Foundation.

Baldwin was appointed interim mayor of Leland in September 1989 and was elected to the seat in November 1989.

He helped to lead a successful campaign by the Civic Association to incorporate Leland and won," said Baldwin. "The challenge now is to build a prosperous town that can provide needed services."

Important issues facing town leaders today are the need for a sewer system, a need to develop human resources and town zoning and subdivision regulations now under development, said Baldwin.

Sewer, he said, would spur commercial, industrial and residential development and increase the town's tax base. The town will also need to support a northern area li-

brary, education (especially preschool) and recreational facilities for youth and senior citizens, he added.

"I have stronger ties and a deeper commitment to Leland," said Baldwin. "Also, I can devote 40 hours a week or more to the position, compared to an eight-hour commitment by (my) opponent."

## JANE GILBERT

Councilmember Jane Gilbert says she hopes to return to the board, along with a new mayor and new fellow council member.

"It is essential that a new mayor and council person be elected that will join me," said Ms. Gilbert, "in working to establish a trusting relationship with our citizens, our surrounding communities and other government officials."

Since Leland became a town two years ago, she said, the mayor and two council members have

"repeatedly disregarded the wishes of the community" on such issues as annexation, donations to civic organizations, cooperation with neighboring communities, unnecessary executive sessions, hiring a police chief who is not certified and attempting to control the town's volunteer organizations, she said.

A graduate of Salisbury State College, Ms. Gilbert has also studied at the University of Maryland, Kansas University and UNC-Wilmington. A special education teacher in New Hanover County, she and her husband, Donald, have five children.

Ms. Gilbert also serves on the Brunswick County Keep America Beautiful Board, the N.C. Bee Keepers Association Board and as recycling coordinator for northern Brunswick.

"I have worked hard for the past two years to be one council member that the citizens could trust," said Ms. Gilbert. "I believe I have earned their trust, and they know that I will continue to serve them with honesty and integrity."

Leland needs a "strong code of ethics and rules" for the council, a zoning ordinance to guide growth and to protect neighborhoods, a sewer and recycling program and to drop all plans for annexation, she said.

## THOMAS D. HYATT

Hyatt, a 21-year employee of the DuPont Co. in Leland, is trying for one of the two council seats.

He attended Dillon (S.C.) High School and later earned his general equivalency diploma through the U.S. Army.



CARLISLE



GILBERT



DOTY



BALDWIN

He has served on the board of directors for the DuPont Employees Credit Union, on the Leland Library Building Committee and Leland Library Fund Raising Committee. He and his wife, Juanita, have four children.

"I feel that it's time for the town of Leland to have a council that is responsive to the people," said Hyatt. "After talking to many people of the town, I feel and believe that I am the person to be responsive to the citizens."

Hyatt said he would vote against

a tax increase, fight annexation and push for northern Brunswick County consolidation if elected.

A tax increase would not be needed for the next two years if the town uses existing resources efficiently, he said.

"I feel that annexation of any kind should be put on hold at this time," said Hyatt, "until the town of Leland can provide services for the town and then any area to be annexed, if the new area voted by majority to be annexed."

He believes efforts should be

made to consolidate the numerous towns in northern Brunswick County.

"If this cannot be done at this time," he added, "then every effort should be made to establish good and fair working relations between all towns."

Hyatt said he is the most qualified for the council, "because I believe that the town belongs to all citizens, and not to just a few town board members," he added. "I have no conflict of interest that would prevent me from carrying out my duties as a councilman."

# Mayor Unopposed; Five Seek Four Board Seats In Bolivia

All but one of the candidates running for office in Bolivia will gain election Tuesday.

Mayor Ina Mae Mintz is unopposed in her bid for re-election to a sixth consecutive term.

Two incumbents, Cecil D. Robbins Jr. and Robert S. Willetts III did not seek re-election, while Sarah E. Knox has filed for a second term. Incumbent Ella Jane Wescott, who has served on the board for at least 10 years, is also seeking re-election. Making their first bids for town office are Alice Lesh, Sherry Willetts and Thurston (Tut) Clemmons Jr.

In Bolivia, the mayor's post and all four seats on the board of aldermen are up for election every two years.

Only two candidates returned the *Beacon's* questionnaire, with Bolivia's future as a town upmost on their mind.

## THURSTON (TUT) CLEMMONS JR.

Clemmons, a retired U.S. Air Force major, says he is seeking election as a civic duty and to improve living conditions in the community. This is his first bid for public office.

"I do not claim to be the most qualified, just the most determined," he wrote when asked what factors make him the most qualified candidate.

During the coming term, he believes the community must determine if Bolivia's status as an incorporated town is justified in view of its limited tax base, limited ability to provide services and town tax rate that is among the highest in the county.

Should its status as a town prove justified, Clemmons says Bolivia must pursue expansion of its tax base, encourage residential and business growth and adopt whatever ordinances are necessary to ensure a quiet, clean town.

Also, he believes the town should adjust its tax rate in keeping with its

ability to provide services.

Clemmons served as an education and training administrator in the U.S. Air Force from 1960-1975. He was an instructor and served on the administrative staff at Brunswick Community College from 1981 through 1987. He holds two degrees from the University of South Carolina, a bachelor of science (1957) and a master's in education (1959).

He and his wife, Margaret, have three children, all of whom are grown.

## ALICE LESH

A retired educator, Alice Lesh says she is seeking election because she wants to be a public servant and to help find ways of insuring the stability of the town of Bolivia.

Economic development is one of her main concerns as Mrs. Lesh seeks her public office for the first time.

She would like to see the town enhance its present water system to meet the demands of industrial development and get involved in economic development with the purpose of creating more jobs for the unemployed in the Bolivia community.

She would like to see the town work to reduce crime and augment public safety by working with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department to establish a Community Watch program—a way

for residents to report potential acts of burglary, theft and other misdemeanors.

Establishment of a trash pick-up service rounds out her list of key issues the board should address during the coming term.

Mrs. Lesh retired in 1984 after 35 years of teaching at Bolivia Elementary School. She is a charter member of the Bolivia Lions Club, recipient of the District Governor's Distinguished Achievement Award for District No. 31-H, and is serving this year as program and social director. She is also secretary of Forest Lawn Cemetery.

She holds a B.S. degree from the University of South Carolina and a reading certificate, served as chairman of the North Carolina Association of Educators legislative committee in 1965; worthy matron of Live Oak Chapter No. 179, Order of Eastern Star, Southport, in 1967; and was a charter member of Beta Beta Chapter of Brunswick County, Alpha Delta Kappa educators' honorary and served on its executive board from 1972 through 1974.

She is the wife of the late Winfred E. Lesh Sr. and is a mother of three.



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JANE GILBERT



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