

Southport Mayor Faces Familiar Opponent; Aldermen Challenged

Southport's Mayor C.B. "Cash" Caroon faces a challenge Tuesday from a familiar face. Former Mayor Norman R. Holden, who served from 1983-89, wants his old job back.

Three incumbents on the board of aldermen who seek re-election also face competition.

Ward I incumbent Mary H. "Meezie" Childs, of S. Atlantic Ave., will face J. Walton Willis, of Bay Street. In Ward II, incumbents Nelson E. Adams, of West 10th Street, and Paul W. Sweeney, of West Street, are battling against challenger William W. Delaney II, of Cottage Lane. Two will be elected to the board.

Aldermen are elected at large to four-year terms. The mayor is elected every two years and may run from either ward.

C.B. "CASH" CAROON

Caroon has served as alderman (1976-84) and mayor since 1989. A member of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (1976-78 and 1985 present), he is president of C.B. Caroon Crab Co. in Southport.

He and his wife, Irma R., have five children.

"When I was elected in 1989," said Caroon, "I found our city in trouble, in a state of discontent. It was lacking in leadership and management. It's my belief these problems have been properly addressed, a sense of leadership has been well established. I'd like to see this continue in the years to come."

Caroon said his 39 years of business experience has helped put Southport on a "good, solid financial foundation."

"Each department is now standing on its own monetary feet," he said. "This is a must for good government."

"The mayor should do more than mediate aldermen with 'old worn-out ideas,'" said Caroon. "I believe the mayor should be able to ideate new and progressive ideas that will establish good leadership for the city's growth."



CAROON

A major need for the city, he said, is the river walk project, which would connect downtown Southport with the Small Boat Harbor. It should be completed as soon as possible, he said.

"This would be an A-1 visitors attraction," said Caroon, "which means dollars for its citizens."

NORMAN R. HOLDEN

Holden, supervisor of the N.C. Division of Adult Probation and Parole office in Brunswick County, served as alderman (1979-83) and mayor of Southport.

He and his wife, Janice Swan, have a son. Holden earned a bachelor's degree from Pembroke State University and graduated from Southport High School.

"I have been involved in various public service capacities for much of my adult life," said Holden, "including over six years as mayor of Southport, and I have the desire to continue to offer the city the benefit of my experience in that capacity."

Holden served on the N.C. Council of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and as director of the Lower Cape Fear Juvenile Services Center.

The price and quality of city utilities and services is a key issue in the election, said Holden.

Southport citizens should be given "the opportunity to prioritize those services they desire, and to determine whether they are willing to pay for those services," he said.

As mayor, Holden said he would "review possible incentive programs that would promote a healthy and vital atmosphere for business."

If elected, Holden said he would "make every effort to protect the quality of life, and preserve the natural historic qualities we all enjoy" in historic Southport.

He is most qualified, Holden said, because of his "understanding of the desires and wishes of all residents, both old and new, that have chosen to make Southport their home."



HOLDEN

Mrs. Childs, a social worker for the Brunswick County Department of Social Services, is a graduate of Southport High School and Meredith College.

She and her husband, Robert R. Childs Jr., have two children.

She has served on the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as chairperson of the Southport Economic Development Commission.

"I have worked for years in planning for and promoting my community," she said. "I seek to continue in this office in order to work further toward the visual attractiveness and economic enhancement of this town."

Priorities will need to be established to implement improvements to Southport, she said.

"I hope to be involved in this process," Ms. Childs said. "I have a solid record of public interest and service to the community in which I grew up."

Aldermen need to practice fiscal responsibility, yet also be "creative and progressive in budgeting for the community's needs and services," she said.

The board should work "for a close and dynamic relationship between the business and citizenry and the local government," she said.

"I would seek greater citizen input into board decision-making by involving aldermen more actively and in closer touch with existing committees of the city and also by adding some ad hoc committees," she said.

J. WALTON WILLIS

Willis, a self-employed businessman, is challenging Ms. Childs in Ward I.

The Southport High School graduate has served as a police chief for five years and is married to Edna Poindexter Willis.

He presently serves on the Southport-Oak Island Committee of 100 and the Southport Economic Development Commission.

Willis said he wants to add "active leadership to the board" and feels qualified for the position because of his "ability to lead with common

sense judgment and not have to depend on others for direction."

Southport should reduce the cost of its services to residents "by creating more efficient management, giving priority to basic needs and directing efforts toward projects which will provide significant value to all residents," he said.

Aldermen need to promote and allow an expansion of the economy, "which will enable the younger to improve their quality of life," Willis added.

A larger base on which to spread the cost of services is needed, he said, "so the older can afford to live here as well."

These things need to be accomplished without slipping backward, he said.

PAUL W. SWEENEY

Sweeney was elected to the Ward II seat in 1989.

The retired utility contractor holds a degree in architecture and engineering. He and his wife, Jimmie, have two daughters.

Owner of Sweeney Construction Corp., he has served as vice president of the National Utility Contractors Association.

He is seeking re-election, "to continue the good work that the present administration has started in the last two years," he said.

"I am willing to spend the time to do the job properly," said Sweeney. "I love Southport and the people who live here."

Aldermen should continue to upgrade the city infrastructure that, he says, has been previously neglected.

The town also needs to "develop ways to enhance commerce and expand the tax base," he added.

A youth center needs to be built and the community center needs improvements, he added.

Sweeney is seeking re-election to one of two seats in Ward II. Incumbent Nelson Adams is also running along with challenger William W. Delaney II, but neither of them returned candidate questionnaires to *The Brunswick Beacon*.



SWEENEY



WILLIS

Incumbents Challenged For Doshier Seats

Smithville Township voters will elect three people to the Doshier Hospital Board of Trustees, two to six-year terms and one to a four-year term, the unexpired portion of a seat vacated by Doug Ledgett.

Eugene B. Tomlinson Jr., of Southport, is running unopposed for the four-year seat. He was appointed to fill that vacancy this year. Four candidates, including two incumbents, are vying for the remaining seats.

Incumbents are Charles B. Johnson, of NE 6th Street, Long Beach, and Evelyn Teal Butler, of Frink Drive, Southport. Neither returned questionnaires to *The Brunswick Beacon*.

Challengers are Debra Amos, of NW 18th Street, Long Beach, and Gib Barbee, of East Oak Island Drive, Long Beach.

DEBRA AMOS

Ms. Amos, a state-certified substance abuse counselor, has over 1,000 hours of hospital volunteer work. She has eight years' experience in a hospital and two years as a nursing home administrator.



AMOS

She and her husband, Tom, live in Long Beach.

She has an interest in keeping Doshier Hospital in Southport "an up-to-date quality medical facility for both residents and visitors in this area," she said.

The Salem College, Winston-Salem, graduate has served as nursing assistant at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland, Ore., and as president of the hospital auxiliary there. She was training officer at the Forsyth County Register of Deeds office and a Girl Scout and Brownie troop leader in Winston-Salem.

Trustees need to make long- and short-range plans for service expansion due to growth and to implement an intermediate physical therapy program, she said.

"(We) need to plan now for the influx of people into our area due to large land developments," said Ms. Amos.

Also, employee grievances

should be heard by "individuals that are acquainted with their type work to help ensure continuance of quality staff," she said.

A physical therapy program for persons that do not need regular structured therapy, but need more supervision than what's offered at a gym, is needed at the hospital, she said.

EUGENE B. TOMLINSON JR.

Tomlinson, of River Drive, Southport, is running unopposed for a four-year term.

The retired U.S. Army engineer has served on the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission since 1977, is past mayor of Southport, (1957-83), former hospital trustee (1976-77) and served as trustee of Wilmington College (1958-60).

A graduate of Wake Forest College, he also earned a degree from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946. He and his wife, Leigh W., have five children.

He has worked as administrative engineer for the U.S. Army (1952-81) and Carolina Power and Light Co. in Southport (1982-86).

"I am interested in assisting with the continuance of Doshier Hospital as a patient-oriented, caring, acute medical care facility," said Tomlinson.

Key issues for trustees are trying to hold medical costs down, promoting hospital cooperation in Brunswick County to ensure maximum care for patients and maintaining an aggressive atmosphere to attract medical personnel, he said.

"There must be a halt to the spiraling cost of medical services," said Tomlinson. "I am a long-time resident of Brunswick County with a genuine concern for the well-being and medical care of all our resi-

dents and visitors. My election to this office would not be just a position, but an opportunity to place this concern into positive action."

GIB BARBEE

Former Yaupon Beach Councilman Barbee said he wants to do his part to "see that Doshier Memorial Hospital continues to provide the quality health care that it has a reputation for providing."



BARBEE

The Southport High School graduate earned a business degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. He and his wife, Billie Potter Barbee, have three children.

He worked as director of Oak Island Golf Course before becoming a self-employed real estate appraiser.

"I have a background in government and a history of working with people," said Barbee. "Also, most of my adult life, I have had to make long-range plans for business enterprises."

Barbee is a trustee at Ocean View Methodist Church, a Sunday school teacher and a trustee at the Southport-Oak Island Moose Lodge.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Council Receives Banner

The Brunswick County Literacy Council recently accepted this banner to hang in its office and display at various events. Pictured (from left) are Maryn Hall, vice chairman of the literacy council; Peg Brown, who designed the banner; and Eloise Kiracofe, its creator. More information on adult literacy efforts and volunteer opportunities is available by calling the council, 754-7323.

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