

Long Beach Residents Will Elect New Mayor And Three Board Seats

Long Beach voters will elect a new mayor and at least one new member to the board of commissioners when they go to the polls next week.

Mike Oxford and Joan Altman are running for the mayor's seat that has been held by Johnny Vereen since 1985.

Vereen filed for a fourth straight two-year term as mayor, but he was knocked out of the race in the primary election Oct. 8.

Candidates running for three available seats on the town board include incumbents David Drummond and Jean Gray.

Challengers are Horace Collier, David Durr, William Easley and James Somers. Four other town board hopefuls were eliminated in the primary.

Six of the eight candidates at Long Beach returned questionnaires to *The Brunswick Beacon* that were mailed to all municipal candidates in early August.

Candidates pinpointed fiscal responsibility and a second bridge to Oak Island as two of the top priorities town officials will have to address over the next few years.

Joan P. Altman

Mayoral candidate Joan P. Altman believes taxes and quality of life are the most important issues Long Beach officials will have to face over the next two years.

"The mayor should address the need to balance town expenses with town income and eliminate raiding the fund balance to fund recurring town expenses," she said.

Mrs. Altman, who made an unsuccessful

run for town board two years ago, also says the mayor should support maintenance of property values by promoting a residential beach atmosphere and protecting the environment.

"This includes a commitment to long-term planning for improved town facilities and a sanitary sewer system," she said.

The self-employed building contractor received a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Virginia and currently serves on the Long Beach Planning Board.

Mrs. Altman said she is seeking the mayor's office "because Long Beach needs positive, effective leadership and representation as the town faces the challenges of growth and increased development."

She thinks she is the most qualified candidate because she is dedicated to fiscal responsibility and long-term planning. "I have attended nearly every town meeting for the past seven years and I am well aware of the issues affecting Long Beach."

Mrs. Altman was secretary of the Brunswick County Literacy Council for 1989-90 and secretary of the Cape Fear River Rowing Club from 1989 to 1991.



I OFFER YOU

- TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ASSETS AND PROBLEMS OF HOLDEN BEACH
- INTEGRITY
- INDEPENDENCE FROM ANY PERSON OR GROUP

I WILL REPRESENT AND SUPPORT FULLY THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Horace Collier
Horace Collier, a self-employed general contractor, said financial stability is one of the most important issues the town board will face over the next four years.

"The town may be faced with the questions of large capital expenditures in the future such as sewer and beach renourishment," he said.

"I feel there is the need for thorough investigation and planning to determine whether such large obligations could easily be met by the town and its citizens while maintaining adequate reserves of town funds."

Collier said development and implementation of the town's thoroughfare plan is another top issue. "I feel this has been a low priority item and needs to be addressed to ensure public safety in out town."

The candidate said he supports controlled growth with an emphasis on single-family development in order to protect the environment and prevent the possibility of over-development.

Collier graduated from Southport High School in 1971 and attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

He is seeking election because he feels the town is facing major decisions that will affect it now and in the future.

"I want to represent all the citizens of Long Beach to help ensure that the town makes the proper decisions to protect the lifestyle and quality of life of the citizens, as well as prepare for our future," he said.

Collier, who has lived at Long Beach more than 25 years, said he's seen it develop from a population of less than 100 to 3,800.

"I've lived with the choices the town has made, both good and bad, over the years. Therefore, I fully understand the impact and long-reaching effects of any choices the town may make now and in the future."

Collier serves on the Long Beach Emergency Preparedness Damage Assessment Team, was a member of the town's erosion control committee in 1988 and served on the town planning board from 1983 to 1985.

He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard and has been active with the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a Cub Scout pack committee chairman and Boy Scout troop committee secretary.

Collier, who has three children, has coached youth baseball for four years and managed his own business for 19 years.

David S. Drummond

Incumbent Commissioner David Drummond said a proposed sewer system, a second bridge to the island and taxes will be the three most important issues he would face over the next four years if he's re-



COLLIER

ected.

Drummond said he thinks the sewer proposal should go to a referendum. "I have seen no data that indicates that a town-wide system is needed at this point," he said.

He added that the federal government discourages sewer systems on barrier islands and the small number of septic tank failures are being corrected on an individual basis.

Drummond said he supports a second bridge to Oak Island. He said it would improve traffic flow if the island was evacuated due to a hurricane or nuclear plant incident.

The candidate also said he would continue to work on the budget and keep taxes low through fiscal responsibility.

Drummond said the tax rate has only risen 4 1/2 cents in the last four years. During that period, the town enlarged the town hall, purchased eight lots at Middleton Park, paved or resurfaced more than 100 streets, bought 28 new vehicles including \$200,000 ladder fire truck and built a bike path.

Drummond said he is seeking reelection so he can continue his plans for the last four year—primarily to represent all residents and property owners of Long Beach.

The co-founder and past president of the Long Beach Civic Association said he is the most qualified candidate because he makes decisions that are in the best interest of the majority.

"I make myself available to the residents and property owners and successfully represent their interests," he said.

A railroad working leader at Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, Drummond graduated from Quincy High School in Quincy, Maine. He also completed various courses at Brunswick Community College between 1984 and 1990.

William D. Easley

Sound financial practices and a second bridge to Oak Island are two of the top priorities for commission candidate William D. "Bill" Easley.

The self-employed contractor said the town's fund balance was over \$1 million two years ago and will be down to \$200,000 by November.

Easley said a second bridge would improve access to the island and allow for a smoother evacuation in the event of a hurricane or other emergency. He said he wants to keep Long Beach a family beach.

Easley is seeking the office because "we desperately need sound financial planning for the future and responsible current spending."

"I own two successful small businesses and feel that a town run as a business will remain sound and strong for the future," he said.

Easley presently serves on the Long Beach Board of Adjustment and Long Beach Planning Board, as



DRUMMOND

well as the Brunswick County Home Builders Association Board of Directors.

The husband and father of five children served in the U.S. Army Officers Corp from 1977 to 1982.

He received a bachelor's degree in agriculture economics from North Carolina State University and attended U.S. Army Officer School.

Easley has a North Carolina real estate license and contractor's license. He also has an F.A.A. airframe and power plant mechanic license and a private pilot's license.

Jean C. Gray

Incumbent Commissioner Jean Gray said a responsible budget and

second bridge to Oak Island are among the top issues facing the Long Beach town board over the next four years.

She said the town board must be responsible for all the money that is spent and guard against unnecessary expenses.

A second bridge would help relieve traffic problems and help in the event of evacuation. She also supports a referendum on expansion of the recreation center.

A retired supervisor with the New York State Thruway Authority, Mrs. Gray said she is seeking reelection because of her concern for all the people of Long Beach.

She said her four years of experience on the town board, knowledge of the budgeting process and the desire to make sure everyone is heard makes her the most qualified candi-



GRAY

date for the post.

The candidate attended Cornell University at Russell Sage and Albany, N.Y., and took a two-year course in labor relations.

James R. Somers

Former mayor James Somers said sewage treatment, building a fund balance and planning are the top issues the board of commissioners will face in the next four years.

Somers said the town needs to address the issue of sewage immediately, not five or 10 years down the road.

He also would like to see Long Beach build up a fund balance that would "carry" the town in the event of a major hurricane like Hugo.

The self-employed general contractor served as mayor of Long Beach in the early 1980s. Somers said he is seeking election so the town will develop a budget and live within it.

"Being in business myself, I know you need to operate within the monies that you have," he said. "You can't go out and spend all of the funds without selling one short."

Somers, who has been a resident for 19 years, said the time has come for commissioners to take a positive attitude and commitment. "I can and will do this," he said.

He graduated from high school and has 2 1/2 years of college experience. Somers was fire chief from 1976 to 1980 and has held various offices with the Brunswick County



SOMERS

Home Builders Association, Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce, as well as Toastmasters, Lions and Moose clubs.

Other Candidates

Oxford, who lost to Vereen by 10 votes in the 1987 mayor's race, and Durr did not return their questionnaires.

CP&L To Test Alert Sirens

Carolina Power & Light Co. will conduct its annual alert siren testing at the Brunswick Nuclear Plant near Southport Friday, Nov. 1, announced Dick Stanard, spokesman for the company.

The sirens, tested at full volume, will sound at approximately 3 p.m. Residents within a 10-mile radius will hear several episodes of the sirens for about three minutes each time.

Full volume tests are conducted once each year to ensure that each siren is working properly, and Stanard said that persons hearing the alarms Friday should not be frightened or take defensive measures.

SWEAT SHIRTS

Great Selection
All Colors
Hand Painted
or design your own!

Lazy Wear
579-1293
Traders Village, Calabash



Vote Gill Bass Commissioner Holden Beach



These are some of my thoughts concerning the issues important to Holden Beach residents; but the most important thoughts are yours. I will listen to you the people and be responsive to your concerns. If you elect me, the chair that I occupy will be the chair of the people.

Here are some of my thoughts concerning the issues important to Holden Beach residents:

- To preserve the traditional family beach atmosphere that we all enjoy, and maintain planned and controlled growth.
- The height limit for houses should remain as is at 35 feet.
- The underground utilities should be completed.
- To ordinate the dredging of the canals by assessing the canal property owners only in order that the cost may be shared by all canal property owners equitably.
- To establish an effective water safety program.
- To change lighting ordinance to provide proper lighting.
- To allow the town manager to conduct town business.
- To examine and study the Wastewater Management Program before adopting it.
- Holden Beach should not annex any property across the bridge. I do not favor annexation.
- Improve communications between Town Hall and the people.

I will be honest, above board and use **common sense** in all dealings that I will have as a commissioner.

Thank you for your vote and support.