

Holden Beach To Elect New Mayor, Full Town Board

Holden Beach voters will elect a new mayor and all five members of the board of commissioners next Tuesday.

The vote will give the coastal town its first mayoral change in six years and place at least four new faces on the town board.

Gay Atkins is the only incumbent commissioner vying for a seat on the board. Gloria Barrett, Judy Bryan and Kenner Amos are not seeking re-election.

Other town board candidates are Gil Bass, Donald Campbell, Diane Clark, Jim Fournier, Crawford Hart, Larry McDowell, David Sandifer, James Shafor, Sid Swarts, Larry Vogt and Roger Williams.

In the mayor's race, voters will choose between Bob Buck, a former town administrator who has served the last four years as commissioner, or Wally Ausley, a retired broadcast executive.

John Tandy, who has served as mayor since 1985 and previously served from 1979 to 1981, decided not to run for office again.

All 14 candidates for mayor and town board responded to questionnaires from *The Brunswick Beacon*.

WALLY AUSLEY

Wally Ausley says his biggest challenge as mayor would be to ascertain and assimilate the ideas, goals and needs of the residents through personal contact.

Ausley said one of his most important responsibilities as mayor would be to conduct organized, well-planned board meetings to allow maximum input by commissioners in forming policies.

The mayoral candidate also wants to help provide an environment in which the town manager can work without interference to expedite town business.

A homeowner at Holden Beach since 1955 and permanent resident for nearly two years, Ausley said he's running for mayor to "return something to the town by serving as mayor and continuing the tradition of excellent leadership provided by our three former mayors."

Ausley said his leadership experience, outgoing personality and "good old fashioned common sense" make him the most qualified candidate for mayor.

He said the last 30 years of his broadcasting career was centered in Raleigh, allowing him to make friends statewide which would help if he was called on to deal with state, county and municipal leaders.

Ausley was senior vice president and director of Durham Life Broadcasting from 1974 to 1991.

He is past president of North Carolina's Broadcasters, served on the N.C. State University Chancellor's Advisory Council and has been appointed by three governors to serve on their inauguration committee.

Ausley graduated from Lafayette High School and the University of North Carolina with a degree in radio, television and motion pictures.

ROBERTSON W. "BOB" BUCK

Bob Buck says fair and effective enforcement of all town ordinances and improvement of town services for residents and visitors are the most important issues the town must address in the next two years.

The candidate also said he supports establishment of an effective wastewater management system.

Buck said improving vehicle parking, beach access and beach swimming safety to better meet the needs of tourists is another priority.

The two-term commissioner said he is seeking the mayor's post to continue his association with local government, and more specifically, to assist in the government of Holden Beach.

He said his "understanding of municipal government and its relationships with county, state and fed-

eral governments" makes him the better candidate for mayor.

Buck was town administrator at Holden Beach from 1981 to 1987 and has held municipal management positions in Brevard, Henderson and New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

He received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree in management from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

GAY M. ATKINS

Gay Atkins says environmental protection and public safety are two of the priorities the town board should address in the upcoming term.

"Our island, in order to protect its fragile environment, must have a continued plan of development that would allow the watchful eye for pollution of its ocean, canals and waterway," she said.

Ms. Atkins said the safety of people on the beach and streets is another important issue. The planned sidewalks and new water rescue program should help make the town safer.

The candidate said she thinks the current outside light ordinance allows for adequate security lighting, but supports monitored access to the island from midnight to 5 a.m.

She also said she would support special tax districts to provide for the dredging of canals, and additional spraying to control mosquitoes.

Ms. Atkins, a self-employed real estate broker, has been serving on the town board since 1985.

She said she is seeking re-election because she cares for the people and environment and would like to offer her time to maintain the quality of life.

Ms. Atkins said her six years experience on the town board makes her the most qualified candidate for the position.

Since she is the only incumbent commissioner running for the town board, Ms. Atkins said she would provide continuity for a new board.

GUILFORD W. BASS SR.

Gil Bass, a former commissioner, lists review of the outside lighting ordinance, organization and implementation of a wastewater management program and continuance of the underground wiring project as top issues at Holden Beach.

Bass said the light ordinance should be written to allow homeowners to protect their property without bothering other people.

He said the town board also needs to determine how a proposed wastewater management program would work, how much it would cost and how it would be financed.

Bass said getting all power and telephone cables underground will make the beach safer and more beautiful and will increase property values.

He served as town commissioner from 1987 to 1989 and prior to that had served two years on the town planning and zoning board.

Bass said he is seeking election to serve the residents and homeowners of Holden Beach and to help maintain the community's traditional family values.

"I have the ability to look at all sides of an issue and to listen to what the people want for Holden Beach, and then vote according to how the people feel," he said.

Bass, manager of Holden Beach Fishing Pier, received a bachelor's degree from Campbell University and a master's degree in education from N.C. State University.

He did other postgraduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University.

Bass has served as president of the Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association and as a trustee at the Holden Beach Chapel.

He has also sat on the board of directors of the Holden Beach Property Owners Association and South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

DONALD M. CAMPBELL

Don Campbell said taking the emphasis off special interests and improving public safety are two of the most important issues commissioners must address in the coming term.

Campbell said too much emphasis has been placed on special interests in lieu of long-term planning that would benefit the town.

"I am for compromise with special interest groups instead of penalizing the entire town to make a few people happy," he said.

The political newcomer said he thinks it is "morally wrong" for someone to rent a house to a visitor without posting warnings about the dangers of swimming in the ocean, jogging in the street and overloading septic systems.

Campbell said he is running for office because he has "a perspective of Holden Beach that would provide an unshakable and solid support for the family beach atmosphere that is so cherished by old timers and newcomers alike."

He said the fact that he lives and works at Holden Beach and sees things that help and hurt the town makes him the most qualified candidate for town board.

Campbell, parts manager at Holden Beach Marina, graduated from Sumter High School in Sumter, S.C.

He previously worked 17 years as coordinator of industrial and commercial air conditioning sales for Trane Air Conditioning in eastern South Carolina.

DIANE CLARK

Diane Clark says protecting the public health, safety and welfare is the most important issue facing the town board.

A former deputy town clerk and interim town manager at Holden Beach, she supports implementing a wastewater management program, lighting street intersections and building sidewalks and more beach accessways.

Mrs. Clark encourages island beautification to enhance aesthetic quality and property values. She said the town should investigate financial means to renourish the beach and start curbside recycling.

The first-time candidate said she is running for office to serve the community, represent the people and help maintain the desired family atmosphere on the island.

Mrs. Clark presently works as a real estate salesperson with Holden Beach Realty. She previously worked as a supervisor with Blue Cross/Blue Shield and served two two-year terms as president of a community association in Maryland.

Mrs. Clark has a high school diploma and has taken several courses and seminars in business management, health insurance and real estate.

JAMES A. FOURNIER

Jim Fournier thinks fiscal responsibility, improving the town's image and enforcement of ordinances and building codes are the most important issues at Holden Beach.

He said taxpayers' money deserves the most dedicated stewardship. The last increase in water rates shouldn't have been needed, he said.

Fournier says "the past few years have been damaging to our reputation as a responsible municipality" and more deliberation is needed by the town board.

He said the town should not allow eight-bedroom houses when landowners only have four-bedroom septic tank permits.

Fournier said he is running for office "to fulfill my obligation to my adopted home town, to do my share to improve the quality of life of Holden Beach residents."

He said he has "no axe to grind, no ties to any special interest group and a desire to protect the overall environment of my last home."

Fournier has served as vice chairman of the Holden Beach Planning and Zoning Board, vice president of the Holden Beach Property Owners Association and co-chairman of the Heritage Harbor Property Owners Association.

He has worked as director of production services with Martin Marietta Corp., president of Ingram Aggregates, general manager of Carolina Sunrock and owner of Snelling Personnel. Fournier attended Louisiana College and East Carolina University.

LARRY MCDOWELL

Larry McDowell said continuing the underground wiring project, dredging the canals and building a walkway and bike trail are the most important issues the town board should address in the next two years.

McDowell is a teacher at West Brunswick High School and Brunswick Community College. He has a certificate in vocational education and graduated from Newport News Shipyard Apprentice School.

McDowell said his 11 years teaching experience and ability to work with people make him the most qualified candidate.

"I feel like I could help the people on the beach to make it a better place to live," he said. "We need a few things done, and I feel that I can represent the people very well."

SID SWARTS

Sid Swarts says control of density and fair enforcement of ordinances and codes are two of the most important issues facing the town board.

The candidate also said the board needs to focus on long-range improvements and problems. "Plans should be developed and followed. Issues do not need to be repeated year after year and never solved."

Swarts said density needs to be managed because it creates problems with traffic, parking, stormwater runoff, solid waste and wastewater disposal.

He also said the town manager should be responsible for enforcing all regulations. "Any ordinance which is not in the best interest of the majority of residents or which cannot be enforced should be changed."

Swarts said he is running for commissioner "to ensure that Holden Beach develops in an organized manner and that desirable living conditions are maintained and provided for all residents."

He served six years on the planning and zoning board, one year on the board of adjustment and was appointed earlier this year to monitor the establishment of a wastewater management program.

Swarts, a retired Army officer, received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in business administration from Syracuse University.

During his 27 years in the Army, Swarts was a company commander, division finance officer and comptroller. He also established and was first president of the Wilmington Swim League.

DAVID R. SANDIFER

David Sandifer said waste management, public safety and fiscal responsibility are the three most important issues the town board needs to address over the next two years.

Sandifer said the town's one-di-

mensional approach to sewage management is "irresponsible" and alternatives must be considered.

The candidate also said the town board has a responsibility to provide a safe environment, but has been reacting rather than planning.

"Many of our full-time residents are retirees who have special needs with regard to safety," he said.

Sandifer said the town budget reads more like a "wish list" than a "needs list" and the frills should be cut out.

"Raising taxes and water bills in addition to imposing an occupancy tax should result in a tremendous amount of entitlements for our residents, but it doesn't," he said.

A real estate broker and owner of Holden Beach Properties, Sandifer said he is a realist who takes a "common sense approach" to solving problems and uses fairness as a guideline.

"I have lived and worked in Holden Beach for eight years and I love my town," he said. "Whether as a citizen or as a commissioner, I will work hard to see that growth is responsible, our environment is protected and our citizens are safe and secure."

Sandifer said he is seeking election because he thinks the town leaders are failing to guide Holden Beach into the 1990s.

"Personalities rather than leadership have been the standard," he said. "Our town board needs to lead with a sense of duty and responsibility at this critical period in our lives as a town."

Sandifer graduated from McLennan High School in Florence, S.C., in 1961. He has previously worked as manager at the Aiken Coca-Cola Plant in Aiken, S.C.

CRAWFORD HART JR.

Crawford Hart says keeping Holden Beach a family beach and establishing long-term plans and goals for the community are among the most important issues facing the town board.

To establish those goals, Hart said all current ordinances need to be reviewed, and the ones that are kept must be enforced.

"For as long as I can remember I have griped about how the New England coastal beaches and towns were overdeveloped," he said. "I would be a hypocrite for not trying to stop that same thing from happening to Holden Beach."

Hart said he has attended most town meetings and some of the planning and zoning and board of adjustment meetings since moving to Holden Beach in 1989.

The candidate presently serves on the board of adjustment and was appointed to oversee the town's recycling program last November.

A retired manufacturers representative and owner of H&H Associates, Hart graduated from Greenwich High School and received degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Hartford, Conn.

He has served as a management/corporate officer and a trustee with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Hart was awarded the Scouter's Key in 1960 for work with the Boy Scouts.

LARRY VOGT

Larry Vogt said street lighting, recycling and beautification are among the most important issues the town board will face in the coming term.

Vogt thinks street intersections along Ocean Boulevard should be lighted and the town

should start a curbside recycling program.

The political newcomer also says the board should work on beautification at public beach accesses, build sidewalks and look at ways of renourishing the beach.

Vogt said he is running for town commissioner "to keep Holden Beach as a family beach and serve my community and its residents."

He is president and owner of Carolina Steel Shelving Co. Vogt managed a multi-million dollar industrial distribution operation covering four states and involving 20 employees from 1965 to 1979.

JAMES J. SHAFOR

Jim Shafor says dealing with wastewater management and improving the town's communication with homeowners are the most important issues facing the board of commissioners.

Shafor said the town needs to do its own in-depth study of wastewater treatment and disposal using information gathered in two previous studies and other reports to determine what is best for Holden Beach.

With regard to communication, Shafor said the town "must provide complete explanations of all major issues, so the homeowners can make decisions based on knowledge and not on emotions."

Shafor was appointed to the Holden Beach Planning and Zoning Board as an alternate in 1990 and was named a regular member in July.

"I have a sincere interest in the growth as well as the preservation of Holden Beach," he said. "I also feel that the time is right for some new and fresh ideas to help Holden Beach grow in the 1990s."

Shafor is a retired teacher from Middletown, Ohio. He graduated from Hamilton High School and the University of Dayton in Ohio and received his teaching certification from Miami University of Ohio.

He coached high school sports for 25 years, served as assistant athletic director and was manager of student affairs in a large high school.

ROGER L. WILLIAMS

Roger Williams said building a partnership, based on trust, between the town board and residents is the most important item commissioners must address in the next two years.

He said the board should "make intelligent decisions in a timely manner always keeping an open line of communication between residents and the town commission."

Williams, who serves as chairman of the town's planning and zoning board, is running for office because he thinks he can "effectively communicate the wishes of the residents of Holden Beach to the town commission."

"I feel very strongly about the need for effective leadership on the Holden Beach Town Commission," he said. "I feel that, in conjunction with other members of town government, I can offer this leadership."

Williams attended the University of South Carolina and works as regional director of sales with Leatex Chemical Co.



AUSLEY



ATKINS



CAMPBELL



MCDOWELL



CLARK



BASS



BUCK



SWARTS



HART



WILLIAMS



VOGT



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