

VOTER GUIDE 2023

By **JOSEPH WILLIAMS**
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BOLTON

Maynor unopposed for Bolton mayor; five jockey for three board of aldermen seats

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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With no other contenders in the Bolton mayoral race this year, Shawn Maynor, who's served in the position for the past 10 years, appears poised to cruise to re-election. Meanwhile, five candidates are battling it out for three seats on the Bolton Board of Aldermen.

The five candidates running for the three

board of aldermen seats did not complete a survey. Those candidates are Jimmy Bowen, Eugene T. Neal Jr., and Ruth Waddell, who currently serve on the board, and challengers Randolph Pringle and Cynthia Mitchell.

Here is the response to *The News Reporter's* candidate survey for the 2023 Bolton mayoral race. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Shawn Maynor — Mayor

What is your age?:
55
How long have you lived in Bolton?:
52 years
Who are your immediate family members?:

Kheddra Maynor, wife; Kelli Maynor, 12-year-old daughter; T. LaShawn Maynor, 5-year-old daughter

Describe your education:

I am a 1986 graduate of Hallsboro High School. I have certifications from Southeastern Community College, Cape Fear Technical College and Robeson Community College. I am a graduate of REDI (Rural Economic Development Institute) with the North Carolina Rural Center in Raleigh, N.C.

What is your current occupation?:

Community organizer, Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership and Development.

ment.

What is your prior professional experience?:

I have been with the Town of Bolton since 1998, serving as program director of the Bolton Senior Center, tax collector and mayor of the town.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Mayor of the Town of Bolton.

Why are you running for office?:

I enjoy serving the community of Bolton.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

More than 10 years of experience as mayor and

more than 10 years of experience as liaison to the former mayor. I am also a graduate of REDI (Rural Economic Development Institute) of the North Carolina Rural Center.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Bolton and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

The Town of Bolton has various pressing issues, and they all need to be strategically addressed. However, the town is growing, businesses are coming and housing is coming our way. We must make sure that the infrastructure is needed, and policies and procedures need to be implemented.



BRUNSWICK COMMISSION

Elleby, Moore seek to oust Davis, Williams-Rowland for commission seats

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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Hoping to fend off two challengers for their seats on Brunswick Town Commission this year are sitting commissioners Everlene Davis and Jacqueline Williams-Rowland. Both women have more than a decade of experience serving on the commission.

Hoping to unseat them are Jason Elleby, a political newcomer, and Shirley Moore, who served one term on the board in the past.

In a separate contest, Commissioner Curtis Hill and challenger Ricky Mason are also competing for an unexpired commission seat on the ballot this year.

Here are the responses to *The News Reporter's* candidate survey for the 2023 Brunswick Town Commission race. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Everlene Davis

What is your age?:
I am a very well-versed senior citizen.

How long have you lived in Brunswick?:

I have lived in my town all of my life.

Who are your immediate family members?:

My family consists of my brother, Willie James Davis, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Describe your education:

I earned a Bachelor of Science in family and consumer sciences from A&T State University. I later earned a Master of Education from Virginia State University. I have been a National Board Certified career and technical education teacher since 2001.

What is your current occupation?:

I currently work as a family and consumer science education teacher

at South Columbus High School.

What is your prior professional experience?:

I am a commissioner for the Town of Brunswick, a member of North Carolina Association of Educators, a member of National Education Association, a member of school improvement team, an advisor for FCCLA, Columbus County Fair and Yam Festival Youth supporter, a member of Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church and a member of numerous community associations.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Yes, I currently serve as an elected commissioner for the Town of Brunswick. I have served in this position for 17 years.

Why are you running for office?:

I have the knowledge and experience to lend a helping hand, and with the help of God, be a strong Christian advocate to all in need.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I am very knowledgeable of my position. I have gained tremendous experience while serving as a commissioner, and I intend to be of further service to all involved.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Brunswick, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

One of our most pressing issues facing our town is affordable and comfortable housing for families in need. Our town should continue to apply for grants in order to receive financial help for those in need.



Jason Elleby

What is your age?:
34

How long have you lived in Brunswick?:

Three years

Who are your immediate family members?:

Matthew Syncere Davis, Quinton Ramel Elleby

Describe your education:

South Columbus High School, Shaw University. I am currently attending Grand Canyon University.

What is your current occupation?:

I work at the State Employees' Credit Union.

What is your prior professional experience?:

I am presently employed at the State Employees' Credit Union and possess over 10 years of experience in the financial industry. Additionally, I have previously worked at the Child Support department of the Columbus County Department of Social Services.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

I have not been elected to a seat or appointed for any position, but I ran against the esteemed David Flowers for a seat on the Whiteville City Schools Board of Education.

Why are you running for office?:

Despite the exceptional performance of our town's esteemed board of commissioners, I have decided to pursue political office as I believe it is high time for our community to experience substantial growth. I aim to bring about urban development and long-term prosperity to the esteemed Town of Brunswick.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I am capable of holding a seat due to my exceptional background in finance, as well as my profound love for my community and its inhabitants.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Brunswick, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

The most pressing issue, in my opinion, is

the lack of business opportunities and limited recreational activities available for our young children within the community.



Shirley Moore

What is your age?:
75

How long have you lived in Brunswick?:

27 years

Who are your immediate family members?:

I have three children: a son, Chris Moore, and daughters Tiffany and Jennifer Moore. I have two granddaughters, Lexie and Leveta.

Describe your education:

I attended Whiteville High School for junior high grades. My family moved to Wilmington, N.C. where I graduated from New Hanover High School.

What is your current occupation?:

Owner and operator of Country Anytime Gifts and Lena's Antiques in the Town of Brunswick.

What is your prior professional experience?:

After graduating from high school, I worked for Bell South/AT&T for 33 years. Bell South/AT&T is unionized, so I had the privilege to be elected by my peers to represent them with grievance appeals with the company. Also, I worked with my parents, Hamp and Lena Jarman, managing our family business for 40 years.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Town of Brunswick Commissioner, elected 2013-2021. Columbus County Beaver Committee, appointed 2013-2021.

Why are you running for office?:

Being raised in a Christian family, God

has been good to me. I am thankful for a beautiful family, retiring from Bell South/AT&T and owning a successful business in the Town of Brunswick. My parents taught me that you should give back to your community to try and help others and hopefully make their lives better.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

My past work history and owning a business are helpful. I attend all of the town meetings and work with the local elected and non-elected officials on issues. In addition, I take all calls from citizens when they have issues to discuss.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Brunswick, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Being in a small town, it is hard to keep up with the changes that are needed for the town due to lack of resources. Not to mention the costs involved. But we keep our property tax and utilities low as much as possible. The town faces issues such as minimal housing standards, improvement in water quality, new sewer additions, etc. These issues are not resolved overnight, so a continuous improvement mindset is necessary.



Jacqueline L. (Jackie) Williams-Rowland

What is your age?:
60

How long have you lived in Brunswick?:

47 years. I grew up in Brunswick, moved to Wilmington in 1985, and returned home in 1996 to raise my family.

Who are your immediate family members?:

Husband: Tony Rowland; children: Collin Rowland and wife, Kayla

Smith Rowland, and Lexie Rowland; and grandchildren: Maverick Rowland and Kohen Rowland; parents: Bennett and Evelyn Williams.

Describe your education:

Attended Whiteville High School, UNC Chapel Hill, and Southeastern Community College

What is your current occupation?:

Retired - Former office administrator - New Hanover County Government - Planning & Land Use

What is your prior professional experience?:

I have worked in administrative positions in county government for 33 years, including planning and land use, parks and recreation and public services.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Commissioner - Town of Brunswick - August 2004 - Present; Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Brunswick - August 2009 - December 2021; Mayor, Town of Brunswick - December 2021 - Present.

Why are you running for office?:

I love the town of Brunswick and want to see it continue to grow and prosper and meet the needs of all citizens. I have dedicated my life to public service and believe it is a privilege to provide good governance for our citizens. My father, grandfather and uncle served on the town board. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to leave the world better than we found it. We are just beginning the first stages of two grants to upgrade our water system, which includes a new elevated water tank, and another grant to replace multiple homes and renovate others. I'd like to see those grant projects through to completion. I'd like to continue to work with other board members to foster economic opportunities within our town, address dilapidated business and residential structures, as well as improve public safety in town, and bring the town into the 21st century technologically. It's important to

BRUNSWICK COMMISSION

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me to provide current and future citizens with a great environment to raise their families. **Why are you qualified to hold this position?:** My long-term dedication to the community and my years of

experience in municipal and county government, including contract administration, finance, budgeting, planning and land use, surety bond administration, human resources and parks and recreation are valuable assets in governing the

town. I am honest, hard-working, fiscally responsible, solution-oriented and hold myself to high ethical standards. **What is one of the most pressing issues facing Brunswick, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:** Expanding and improving the town's water and sewer services

are key to the future growth and development of Brunswick. We have already started this process by applying for and receiving federal grants to upgrade and update these utilities and to address dilapidated housing throughout the town. An elevated water tower has been a goal for Brunswick for many years, and we are finally

achieving that goal. It will provide consistent water supply for current and future residents and businesses and allow for fire hydrants throughout town, which will lower insurance costs for residents. Extending these services to all areas of town is essential. The

town should pursue and apply for all available funding options for water and sewer infrastructure improvements, as well as flood mitigation and stormwater/drainage grants to remedy those issues, which are persistent in certain areas of town.

BRUNSWICK COMMISSION
Hill hopes to hang on to mother's seat, faces competition from Mason

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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After Nancy Hill died in 2022, the Brunswick Town Commission appointed Curtis Hill to temporarily fill his late mother's seat. Now, Hill is facing off with challenger Ricky Mason at the ballot box this November to complete the remainder of his mother's unexpired term. Mason, who has a background in ministry and currently serves on the town's planning board, is aspiring for that position for himself instead. The seat Hill and Mason are running for is an unexpired term seat and is up for reelection in 2025. In a separate contest, incumbents Everlene Davis and Jacqueline Williams-Rowland are running this year for two full-term seats on the commission, challenged by Jason Elleby and Shirley Moore. Here are the responses to *The News Reporter's* candidate survey for the unexpired seat in the 2023 Brunswick Town Commission race. Answers were edited for

brevity and clarity.



Curtis L. Hill

What is your age?: 41
How long have you lived in Brunswick?: 41 years
Who are your immediate family members?: Wayne Hill, Randy Hill
Describe your education: B.A. in political science from North Carolina State University
What is your current occupation?: I am an advocate with Disability Rights NC.
What is your prior professional experience?: Executive director, Columbus County Forum (six years); president, Columbus County NAACP;

campaign manager and worker; field organizer (national presidential team). **Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:** Yes. Brunswick Town Commission (April 2022–Present)
Why are you running for office?: Because I have a unique set of skills that includes understanding rural N.C. citizens, and finding resources that will enhance their daily living conditions. I also understand finances and can manage fiscal responsibilities well. Given that I intentionally put myself in places where I can learn as much as I can so that I can help people here, I want the opportunity to share that information and apply it when appropriate.
Why are you qualified to hold this position?: I am able to listen to people and their descriptions of situations with an ear toward understanding what the overall problems are and with the mindset of making decisions that will benefit the entire commu-

nity. I am approachable, and I care about the best interests of everyone in this town. **What is one of the most pressing issues facing Brunswick, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:** If you look at the national scene, there would appear to be many areas of concern including public safety, the economy and infrastructure. But I think the underlying issue with the Town of Brunswick is finances. How can we continue to operate the town on such a small revenue base and without raising property taxes? I have emphasized grantsmanship and co-operation with state and federal agencies as a commissioner. As a result of working together, Brunswick has received three major grants to deal with our water system and with our housing stock. We are currently pursuing grant funds to address targeted flooding concerns. If re-elected, I will continue to pursue grant dollars to help out where our limited revenue base just can't

pay for the capital needs of Brunswick. I believe that our citizens expect us to try to get some of their state and federal taxes they pay returned to us locally so we can see progress being made in our own neighborhoods.



Ricky Mason

What is your age?: 63
How long have you lived in Brunswick?: 30 years
Who are your immediate family members?: Kadedra Mason
Describe your education: I finished high school and have a degree in ministry. I read and write music and went to a performing arts school.
What is your cur-

rent occupation?: Retired
What is your prior professional experience?: Counseling young men in the high school system
Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?: I am on the planning board for the Town of Brunswick.
Why are you running for office?: I want to make change for the people and the town and community of Brunswick.
Why are you qualified to hold this position?: Because if I am given a chance for the position which I am running for, I will fight for the change for the people, the town and community of Brunswick.
What is one of the most pressing issues facing Brunswick, and what do you think the town should do to address it?: The Town of Brunswick needs to further business growth. If elected, I plan to seek out a business developer to encourage such growth.

CERRO GORDO
McKenzie, Prince to show down with Specht; White unopposed for mayor

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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With two seats on Cerro Gordo Town Council up for election this year, challenger Pamela Specht is hoping that one of those seats will be called in her favor come Election Day. Meanwhile, incumbents Brenda McKenzie and David Prince intend to keep their seats on the council. Prince and Specht did not complete *The News Reporter's* 2023 municipal candidate survey. Also on the ballot in Cerro Gordo this year is Mayor David White, who's running unopposed for reelection. Here are the responses to *The News Reporter's* candidate survey for the 2023 Cerro Gordo Town Council and mayoral races. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Brenda McKenzie — Council

What is your age?: 64 years
How long have you lived in Cerro Gordo?: All of my life, 64 years
Who are your immediate family members?: My son, Shannon Jenkins; daughter, Sandra McKenzie; sisters, Jacqueline Gordon, Shelia Riley, Aleasia McNair and Janice Edge.
Describe your education: Graduated from West Columbus High School and graduated from Southeastern Community College with an Associate in Arts in early

childhood development. **What is your current occupation?:** Kitchen manager with Mt. Olive Head Start Center, (Southeastern Community Action Partnership)
What is your prior professional experience?: I have worked as a supervisor and managerial staff. I taught in Head Start as a migrant teacher and as an education specialist.
Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?: Yes, Town Council of Cerro Gordo for one term (four years).
Why are you running for office?: To be a voice in the community that I live in. To strive to make my community as safe and beautiful as possible.
Why are you qualified to hold this position?: I have worked with the public for more than 20 years as a supervisor and manager. I am a leader in my church as well as other groups. I try to follow in the footsteps of my father who served on

the council for more than 34 years. **What is one of the most pressing issues facing Cerro Gordo and what do you think the town should do to address it?:** Flooding and drainage. We are taking the necessary steps to resolve the issue and are seeking the appropriate solution for this situation.



David White — Mayor

What is your age?: 62
How long have you lived in Cerro Gordo?: 35 years
Who are your im-

mediate family members?: Kimberly (wife) John David and Rhett (sons)
Describe your education: Graduated from West Columbus High School and Southeastern Community College with an associate's degree in agriculture science.
What is your current occupation?: Retired from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (31 years)
What is your prior professional experience?: I have served the Town of Cerro Gordo and its community for some 26 years in the position of either council member or mayor.
Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?: I have served as mayor for the past 12 years at the pleasure of our citizens. Before being elected mayor, I served as a town council member for some 14 years as well.
Why are you running for office?: I am running for mayor again to continue to serve the people of our

town and community. I find it a pleasure to serve. **Why are you qualified to hold this position?:** Experience. I have been a part of seeing our town grow and have seen new businesses come into our town. It's exciting to see progress for our area. We have also seen and been a part of the addition of a beautiful new school within our town.
What is one of the most pressing issues facing Cerro Gordo, and what do you think the town should do to address it?: Sewer and flooding are both serious issues that are not quick or easy fixes. However, both issues are being addressed. We are in the planning stages of a possible regional sewer and water authority which will be made up of five towns. Regarding the flooding, our town has secured a sizable grant to study our flood situation which will provide some solutions to these problems. Unfortunately, it takes time for the process to play out.



CHADBOURN MAYOR

Britt to battle with Cartrette and Haynes for Chadbourn mayor seat

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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Phillip Britt intends to secure a fourth term as Chadbourn’s mayor, but he has some competition this year. Aiming to unseat him are Myles Cartrette and Ruth A. Haynes.

Here are the responses to *The News Reporter’s* candidate survey for the 2023 Chadbourn mayoral race. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Phillip Britt

What is your age?:
54
How long have you lived in Chadbourn?:
54 years
Describe your education:
EMT-Paramedic, Emergency Management 4, Critical Care and National Registry Paramedic, Basic Law Enforcement Instructor
What is your current occupation?:
Retired logistics coordinator for Brunswick County Emergency Services, Southeastern Com-

munity College instructor

What is your prior professional experience?:

I worked over 22 years with emergency services. I have an in-depth knowledge of the workings of local government, which includes budgeting, government contracts, project planning and follow-through. I was also directly involved in handling bid processes and was responsible for multiple supervisory roles.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Mayor of the Town of Chadbourn, 2015–Current

Why are you running for office?:

I am running for reelection for mayor because we have a lot of projects in the works that I want to see through to the end. I feel like our town is heading in a positive direction and we finally have unity as a governing body. I still have a lot of ideas and have made a lot of contacts that I feel will further benefit and move the town forward.

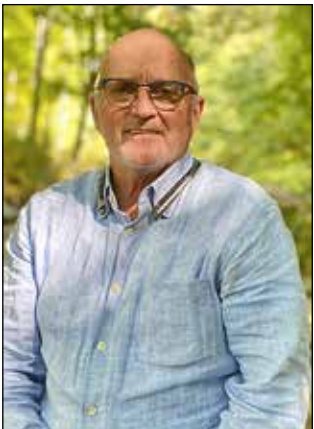
Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I have many years of local government and management experience. I have already served in this capacity and have a working knowledge of the position, its importance and needs. I have established relationships

with the community and other elected officials statewide that I feel will further benefit the town.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Chadbourn, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Economic development is the most pressing issue. Our town is in desperate need of a revitalization. Without new businesses we aren’t attracting new residents or visitors. We are currently working hard on focusing on grant searching and “cleaning up” our downtown area to make it more appealing. We are in the process of working with an outside entity that is focusing on completing a Master Downtown Plan, which will outline our goals and make obtaining revitalization and development grants more attainable.



Myles Cartrette

What is your age?:
67
How long have you lived in Chadbourn?:

I grew up here and returned in 2010.

Who are your immediate family members?:

Donna Cartrette, Anthony Cartrette Jr., Beth Cartrette, Nicole Fiehler, Justin Williamson and Jeni Hardin

Describe your education:

Graduated Waccamaw Academy and four years at East Carolina University

What is your current occupation?:

President of R3 Ministries (nonprofit)

What is your prior professional experience?:

Minister, general contractor, land developer oil and gas (Texas)

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Appointed chairman of Board of Zoning in Greenville, N.C.

Why are you running for office?:

I believe that I can lead Chadbourn and our team in a direction that will improve our community and improve job opportunities by recruiting new industry. We need community confidence as well as new housing availability.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

Experience as a leader in business as well as civic organizations. Served on the national Board of Directors of the Home Builders Association as well as the N.C. board

as well.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Chadbourn, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Infrastructure improvements as well as transparency within the financial systems of our community.



Ruth A. Haynes

What is your age?:
54
How long have you lived in Chadbourn?:
16 years

Who are your immediate family members?:

Son: Zahier J. Thomas; daughter: Joy N. Wiggins

Describe your education:

High school diploma and associate’s degree in case management

What is your current occupation?:

I am a respite provider for young adult transition through the Columbus County Department of Social Services.

What is your prior professional experience?:
My professional ex-

perience is I was a case manager for 16 years at a drop in center in New York City working with an agency called Safe Horizons.

I advocated for homeless and disenfranchised young adults. I ran a 90 day shelter in Harlem, N.Y. for two years. I also advocated at city hall, and I also lobbied.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

No.

Why are you running for office?:

The town I call home is a beautiful place to live. I want to be a part of the rebuilding and restructuring of this town by involving our youth and reaching out to our middle-aged adults to attract businesses and families in a different way. Also, I want to look at some of our city’s problems and be a part of restoring what the town already has.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

A town like Chadbourn was built on passion and drive. I offer new eyes and light to grow what’s already here.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Chadbourn, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

WATER. The townspeople have complained and tried to understand the problem behind costly water bills.

CHADBOURN TOWN COUNCIL

Five candidates, three seats: Clewis and Jordan challenge Ashley, Green and Faulk

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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There aren’t enough seats on the ballot to accommodate all five candidates for the 2023 Chadbourn Town Council race.

Will either former council member Danny W. Clewis Sr. or political newcomer Tony Carson Jordan unseat incumbents Antonio Ashley, James Green or Colene Kelly Faulk this year?

Here are the responses to *The News Reporter’s* candidate survey for the 2023 Chadbourn Town Council race. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Antonio Ashley

What is your age?:
39
How long have you lived in Chadbourn?:
Two-and-a-half years
Who are your immediate family members?:
Gladys “Montana” Hamilton-Ashley (wife), JaCouri Carmichael (son), Akeelah Baldwin (bonus daughter)

Describe your education:

Bachelor of Science in psychology from Fayetteville State University and a diploma in practical nursing from Southeastern Community College.

What is your current occupation?:

LPN at Shoreland Health Care and Retirement Center, AFL Provider at HomeCare Management

What is your prior professional experience?:

I have worked in project management, administration and procurement in major metropolitan areas such as D.C. and NY, as well as on projects here in N.C. I’ve had the pleasure of being the 2022 HBCU White House Scholar which allowed me to sit at the table with lawmakers and politicians to gain wisdom.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Yes, I am a city councilman for the Town of Chadbourn. I was appointed to my seat about 18 months ago.

Why are you running for office?:

To help further the vision and future of the town in which my family lives. To give back to the community and help enrich the lives of those around us. I want to be able to be a model for what hard work and determination can do.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I have held this seat

for the past almost two years. In this time, my fellow council members and I have been able to update our town’s urban development ordinance to welcome future developments. We have been awarded millions in grant funding to build our infrastructure. We are developing the master plan for the town.

I have a passion and love to help people. No matter who you are, where you come from or where you’ve been, you matter to me.

I’m qualified because I am a citizen with a heart who wants to see the best for his community. Chadbourn is a beautiful town with a great future, and I want the world to know it!

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Chadbourn, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

One of our most pressing issues is the revitalization of the community at large. I think we are heading in the right direction by obtaining grants to help residents replace dilapidated homes, replacing old pipes for better water and tearing down existing buildings to make way for new development and ideas.

We can address change by all working together as one cohesive unit to make our town thrive. As we all pitch in with ideas, clean ups and neighborly acts we can push forward into a brighter future!



Danny W. Clewis Sr.

What is your age?:
60
How long have you lived in Chadbourn?:
50 years

Who are your immediate family members?:

Danny Clewis Jr. and Caleb Clewis

Describe your education:

Graduated West Columbus in 1981, Cape Fear College in 1987, obtained a North Carolina paramedic certification, 1999 UNC Charlotte Management Institute, North Carolina Medical Examiner. I have taken many public safety classes, grant writing, disaster, preparedness, Management of mass casualties and many more.

What is your current occupation?:

North Carolina paramedic and medical examiner

What is your prior professional experience?:

I have worked in public safety for 39 years and been a manager since 1999. I hold the rank of

captain in public service, and that involves being part of managing a budget, employees, grants, and disaster preparedness. Prior elected city council experience.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Elected to town council, 2017 to 2021

Why are you running for office?:

To move the town forward. I will focus on being accountable for each citizen’s tax dollars and finishing the downtown project we started during my last term as councilman. During my term, I will address the following issues: paving streets and parking lots, parks and recreation for children, hiring a town manager, hiring a grant writer, water and sewer and supporting public safety. I will not support an increase on taxes or the water bill. I hope to be a voice for all citizens.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

The 39 years of local government work and past council experience have prepared me for all aspects of being a council member.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Chadbourn, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Maintaining a balanced budget. By maintaining a balanced budget, the town can move forward on the revitalization projects, main-

taining streets, crime and community policing, develop youth activities and storm water management without increasing expenses on the public.



James Green

What is your age?:
49
How long have you lived in Chadbourn?:
45 years

Who are your immediate family members?:

Three kids, one deceased

Describe your education:

High school diploma, continuing college educational classes, business certifications

What is your current occupation?:

Home improvement/repair, real estate and landscaping

What is your prior professional experience?:

I’ve served on the governing body for over 12 years. I am currently mayor pro tem. I’ve assisted the parks and recreation department in

CHADBOURN TOWN COUNCIL

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different capacities related to the youth. I also serve on the board of directors for the NCBEMO. I am also a member of NCLM and NLC.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

I serve as mayor pro tem on Chadbourn Town Council, and I have been in service for over a decade.

Why are you running for office?:

I am running for office again because I plan to continue working on the projects that we have started on. I have begun conversations that will include a strategic plan to prepare Chadbourn for the future. That plan includes the projects we have started in the last two years that will have a direct effect on economic development to grow our town in a smart and effective way.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I believe that I am qualified to continue my

leadership in the town because I fight for the issues that concern our community. No matter who I have to fight against, my commitment is to the entire community and is to make it a better place.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Chadbourn, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

The most pressing issues that the town faces are safety, traffic, business growth and housing affordability. I will continue to work with local, state and national leaders to bring funding to our town that can help alleviate some of these issues for our citizens. I will continue to work with developers to bring affordable housing and businesses to our area. By capitalizing on the traffic flow, it is my goal to offer water, sewer, and property tax incentives to commercial businesses that will come to Chadbourn.



Colene Kelly Faulk

What is your age?:
43

How long have you lived in Chadbourn?:
I returned to Chadbourn in January 2011.

Who are your immediate family members?:
I am the daughter of Alexander and the late Rev. Phylisa Kelly and am married to Delmas Faulk, all of Chadbourn, N.C.

Describe your education:
Master of Divinity from Campbell University and Master of Public Administration-Non-profit Management from High Point University.

What is your current occupation?:

Dean of student services at Southeastern Community College

What is your prior professional experience?:
I have 14 years of higher education work experience and leadership training. I've served as a pastor for two years and have worked with different organizations within our community.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
Elected to Chadbourn Town Council for the past two terms, equal to eight years of experience.

Why are you running for office?:
To continue the work by improving our streets and providing safe places for our youth to enjoy. Also, I hope we can bring more small businesses to our downtown district.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
I have years of experience with leadership and communication skills. I have the privilege to serve with the current administration who is working together while facing challenges and

difficulties. We strive to keep The Town of Chadbourn and the people first in our decision-making process.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Chadbourn, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
One of the most pressing issues our town is facing is finding a creative way to tap into the high volume of traffic and how to draw people, families and businesses to our downtown district.



Tony Jordan

What is your age?:
54

How long have you

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lived in Chadbourn?:
35 years

Describe your education:
12th grade education

What is your current occupation?:
Truck driver

What is your prior professional experience?:
I don't have any experience in politics, but I'm a business owner.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
No.

Why are you running for office?:
Because I love the town, and I think I can help make it better.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
I've been a resident here for a number of years and am a business owner.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Chadbourn, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
We need a grant writer and an economic developer so that we can grow this town. That's what I plan to do to address our problem.

FAIR BLUFF TOWN COUNCIL

Taylor hopes to unseat McCoy or Ashley; Britt unopposed for Drew's former seat

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
josephwilliams@nrcolumbus.com

Seeking second terms to the Fair Bluff Town Council this year are incumbents Ralph McCoy and Kathy Horne Ashley. Vying for one of their seats is challenger Robert Taylor.

Taylor did not participate in *The News Reporter's* 2023 municipal candidate survey.

Also on the ballot in Fair Bluff this year is Council Member Spruell R. Britt, who's running unopposed for re-election in a separate contest for an unexpired council seat. The seat Britt is running for will be up for reelection in 2025.

Here are the responses to *The News Reporter's* candidate survey for the 2023 Fair Bluff Town Council and mayoral races. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Kathy Horne Ashley

What is your age?:
62

How long have you lived in Fair Bluff?:
Since I was eight years old.

Describe your education:
I graduated from Southeastern Community College with an associate's degree.

What is your current occupation?:
Corporate secretary of Frank Horne Construction

What is your prior professional experience?:
I have been involved in the community since 1996. Current Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce president; Fair Bluff Rotary, 1997-2005; was a part of the first Leadership Columbus in 1996. Fair Bluff Town Council 2019-current. Colum-

bus County Chamber of Commerce and Columbus County Economic Development currently.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
Fair Bluff Town Council for four years

Why are you running for office?:
To help support the Fair Bluff community.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
I have worked in this community for many years and understand our problems and our people. I am dedicated to bringing Fair Bluff back to a thriving community.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Fair Bluff and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
To rebuild our population and our tax base. We are working right now and have been for the last five years to address this problem. We are rebuilding homes, building the Uptown Business Center and also have plans for a park downtown and are hoping that this will bring more people to visit Fair Bluff — and

they might even would like to stay.



Ralph McCoy

What is your age?:
70

How long have you lived in Fair Bluff?:
70 years

Who are your immediate family members?:
My wife, Melinda McCoy; my three sons, Clayton McCoy, Vance McCoy and Fred Nelson; and my daughter, Marsha McKeever

Describe your education:
High school

What is your current occupation?:
I work at Worthington Funeral Home in maintenance.

What is your prior professional experience?:
30 years

Have you held or

do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
I've been a town council member for four years.

Why are you running for office?:
Because I care about my community.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
Because people in my community know I can do the job.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Fair Bluff and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
We need a supermarket.



Spruell R. Britt

What is your age?:
76

How long have you lived in Fair Bluff?:
76 years

Describe your education:
B.S. in business administration.

What is your current occupation?:
Merchant/farmer

What is your prior professional experience?:
Farming, retail sales, investments

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
Yes. I am a former Fair Bluff mayor and Columbus County commissioner. I currently serve on Fair Bluff Town Council.

Why are you running for office?:
I have many years of experience and a deep concern about the town's future.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
Experience

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Fair Bluff and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
Lack of tax base to sustain necessary town services.



LAKE WACCAMAW

Bracey and Littrell running unopposed for East, West Ward seats

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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With no other contenders signed up for either race, Karl Bracey and Terry Littrell appear set to secure re-election to their East and West Ward seats on Lake Waccamaw Town Council this year.

Council appointed Bracey to serve out the remainder of former commissioner Rosemary Dorsey's term after she stepped down from her East Ward seat late last year. Now, he's running to serve a term of his own. Elected in 2019, Littrell is seeking a second term on council.

Here are the responses to *The News Reporter's* candidate survey for the 2023 Lake Waccamaw Council race. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Joseph "Karl" Bracey

— East Ward

What is your age?:
61

How long have you lived in Lake Waccamaw?:
17 years

Who are your immediate family members?:
Wife, Suzanne (married 37 years); sons, Allen and his wife Candace, Derrick and wife Carmen; three grandchildren and another coming in February.

Describe your education:
Associate in Arts from Southeastern Community College and two Bachelor of Arts degrees from UNC-Wilmington. I have

been a mentor to beginning teachers.

What is your current occupation?:
I am a retired teacher and work for Columbus County Parks and Recreation.

What is your prior professional experience?:
History teacher, athletic director, health and PE teacher. Varsity baseball coach, girls basketball coach, new teacher mentor

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
Yes. I serve on Lake Waccamaw Town Council. I was appointed in

January 2023.

Why are you running for office?:
Because it is home. I care about the present and future of this town. We are fortunate to have a scenic place, and I want Lake Waccamaw to keep its identity. Growth is coming whether we want it or not, so we have to be ready and ensure it is done in a way as not to diminish the beauty of the lake.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
I'm qualified because of the dedication I'll have for the betterment of Lake Waccamaw. I believe I can make a posi-

tive impact on our town through hard work and the knowledge of how local governments should work.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Lake Waccamaw and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
Infrastructure by far. Our aging system has to be updated, which it has in some places, but much work is still needed. We should explore all avenues throughout state leadership. It's expensive to fix, hopefully our state leadership can continue to assist us.

LAKE WACCAMAW

Continued from 5C



Terry Littrell — West Ward

What is your age?:
74
How long have you lived in Lake Waccamaw?:
27 years
Who are your immediate family members?:
Wife, Virginia “Ginger” Littrell; son, Blaine Littrell and his wife, Stacy; three grandsons, Logan, Robert and James.
Describe your education:
B.A. from Anderson University (Business/Ed-

ucation) and M.B.A. from Campbell University.
What is your current occupation?:
Retired
What is your prior professional experience?:
Former senior vice president of Nash Finch Co., largest independent grocery wholesaler in the country. After I retired, I worked for Whiteville Plywood Co. (now North Carolina Plywood), where I was the general manager.
Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
Yes. I am currently a commissioner for the West Ward of the Town of Lake Waccamaw.
Why are you running for office?:
This is my home, and I want to do all I can to

help ensure that we keep our town the best it can be. The lake is a special place, and we all need to do our best to keep it beautiful.
Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
I believe my experience as a manager in business gives me good insight in making decisions needed to keep the town government solid.
What is one of the most pressing issues facing Lake Waccamaw and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
The infrastructure of our town is and will always be the most important issue. Working with our town employees to maintain and continually improve our infrastructure is essential to literally keep our town functioning.



SANDYFIELD

Four incumbents uncontested for Sandyfield council; mayor unopposed

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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Sandyfield residents may see some familiar names on the ballot — all four candidates for the town’s mayor and council are uncontested incumbents this year.
However, only one of those candidates, Randolph Keaton, completed *The News Reporter’s* 2023 municipal candidate survey. He was first elected to Sandyfield Town Council in 2019 after winning a tied vote by a coin toss.

This year, he’s hoping to win by a wider margin than four years ago.
The candidates who did not complete the survey are Mayor Garry A. Keaton, who is running again for mayor, and Council Members Joe Brown and Azalie P. Graham, who are running for another term on council.
Here is the response to *The News Reporter’s* candidate survey for the 2023 Sandyfield Town Council and mayoral races. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Randolph Keaton — Council

What is your age?:
62
How long have you lived in Sandyfield?:
58 years
Who are your immediate family members?:
Angela Keaton, wife
Describe your education:
Master’s degree in human resource development
What is your current occupation?:
Nonprofit director
What is your prior professional experience?:
Over 30 years of human services experience and an Air Force veteran.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
Councilman of the Town of Sandyfield
Why are you running for office?:
I am running for office to assist with bringing resources to the citizens of our town and surrounding communities.
What is one of the most pressing issues facing Sandyfield, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
Access to good paying jobs, broadband internet for everyone and recreational facilities for the youth and seniors.

I have many years of experience working with the public and private sectors to advance economic and social change.

TABOR CITY

Lee and Mincey hope to block Beck and Cox from council seats; Harper unopposed

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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Four contenders are competing for two Tabor City Town Council seats on the ballot this year.
Longtime Tabor City officials Nelson Lee and David Mincey are hoping to keep their seats despite electoral bids from West Columbus School Principal Kelly Beck and fellow challenger Emory Cox.
Cox did not participate in *The News Reporter’s* 2023 municipal candidate survey.
Also on the ballot in Tabor City this year is Mayor Royce Harper, who’s running unopposed for re-election.
Here are the responses to *The News Reporter’s* candidate survey for the 2023 Tabor City Town Council and mayoral races. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Kelly Beck — Council

What is your age?:
44
How long have you lived in Tabor City?:
26 years
Who are your immediate family members?:
Eddie Beck, husband; Riley Norris, Brenley Davis, Erin Beck, daughters; Jess Beck and Evan Bullard, sons
Describe your education:
Graduate of South Columbus High School; B.S. in elementary education

from East Carolina University; master’s degree in reading education from ECU; license in school administration from Sandhills Leadership Academy
What is your current occupation?:
Principal of West Columbus School
What is your prior professional experience?:
Teacher, nine years; year-long principal internship, one year; lead teacher, one year; assistant principal, three years; principal, five years
Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
No.
Why are you running for office?:
I am seeking election to the Tabor City Town Council as a way to serve my community and constituency, working to address their needs and concerns. I want to offer a voice and new perspective for those that may not be adequately represented. As a lifelong resident of Tabor City, I believe that a successful political process is essential for a healthy democracy. I have a genuine desire to contribute to the betterment of society and believe that political office is a way to do that. I am inspired by previous political figures who have made a positive impact in our town and would like to continue to build upon their many successes.
Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
My family has resided in Tabor City for many generations. Possessing a familiarity with the specific needs and challenges of our small town provides me with an understanding of the local economy, infrastructure,

education system and other key areas needed to successfully govern our town. I am an effective communicator and possess the ability to work collaboratively with other council members, constituents and local stakeholders. Analyzing problems, considering multiple perspectives and finding practical solutions will allow me to address the complex issues that we all face. I am strongly committed to ethical conduct and transparency and will work to maintain the trust of my constituents. I am open to learning about new issues, policies and best practices and adapting to changing circumstances. Possessing a background in leadership has helped me gain the knowledge and expertise needed to effectively build relationships, demonstrate dedication to the town’s well-being and bolster my knowledge of effective governance. I firmly believe that to lead is to serve.
What is one of the most pressing issues facing Tabor City, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
Economic development and employment are vital issues that our town faces. Creating job opportunities and supporting a diverse economy is crucial to our town’s prosperity. Collaborating and partnering with local businesses, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and neighboring municipalities will help leverage the resources needed to succeed in this endeavor. Prioritizing spending and seeking grants or other funding sources will help us address pressing issues.
Public safety related to law enforcement,

emergency services and community safety also play a vital role in the economic development and growth of our town. We must ensure that our police department and other emergency services have the necessary resources, including staffing, equipment and training to effectively respond to incidents and prevent crime. Unwavering support of these entities will lead to our town’s growth. We must plan for potential future challenges and be adaptable and resilient when those challenges arise so that we can achieve sustainable improvements.



Nelson Lee — Council

What is your age?:
67
How long have you lived in Tabor City?:
67 years
Who are your immediate family members?:
Madison Ward, Harrison Lee, Chessa Lee
Describe your education:
Graduated from Tabor City High School in 1974, graduated from N.C. State University with a Bachelor of Science in 1978
What is your current occupation?:
Retired but working part time for North Myrtle Beach Parks and Recreation
What is your prior professional experience?:

I have been the owner of a restaurant and catering service (The Todd House) in Tabor City for 40 years and have been owner of a car wash in Tabor City for 35 years. I’ve also served as mayor of Tabor City for eight years and have served on town council for the last eight years.
Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:
Mayor of Tabor City 1993-2001, served on town council 2015-present
Why are you running for office?:
As a lifelong resident of Tabor City, I have a desire to make Tabor City strong again. Our council has worked very hard on new ideas to make this town grow, and I’m looking forward to seeing those projects through to their completion. We have a number of jobs developing that will enhance Tabor City. We have two housing projects which will increase our tax base. We have some downtown redevelopment projects which include our new depot and the development of a new downtown business incubator. There are also two new parking lots and are recruiting new businesses. I want to continue to make sound decisions that will allow Tabor City to move forward and grow for years to come.
Why are you qualified to hold this position?:
I’ve grown up here. I’ve experienced when Tabor City was great and when times have been tough. I’ve been in business here for 40 years. I’ve served for 16 years as either mayor or councilman of Tabor City. I’ve served on the recreation board and on the chamber of commerce board. I’ve served

on the planning and zoning board and the board of adjustment. Plus, the experience of living 67 years.
What is one of the most pressing issues facing Tabor City, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:
As a small town, we have a great number of needs. We need to build our tax base in Tabor City. We need more jobs, more business development, housing, and the only way this will happen is to bring in new, vibrant people to Tabor City. I want Tabor City to grow and develop. That is what I see as the most pressing issue facing Tabor City. As we get new people, that means businesses will grow and housing developments will grow. More people means more workforce and with the workforce we can recruit new industries. Let’s move Tabor City forward.

Candidate did not submit photo by press time

David Mincey — Council

What is your age?:
68
How long have you lived in Tabor City?:
58 years
Describe your education:
I am a proud graduate of Tabor City High

TABOR CITY

Continued from 6C

School. I had an extensive education history with the U.S. Post Office including finance, audit, safety and leadership management. I have also completed educational training provided by the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

What is your current occupation?:

Semi-retired as Tabor City postmaster. Currently working part time in the healthcare field.

What is your prior professional experience?:

I was a career U.S. Postal Service employee serving a total of 37 years, and 27 of those years were as a postmaster.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

I have been a Tabor City councilman for 20 of the last 24 years, dating

back to 1999. Prior to that, I served six years on the Tabor City Planning Board.

Why are you running for office?:

There are many large projects underway right now that our council has been working on for some time. We have the opportunity for many other tremendous investment opportunities. I'd like to continue working on issues like those that will shape the future of Tabor City, but my greatest reason for seeking another term is that I really enjoy helping people. The citizens call on me often for assistance, and it's always great to resolve their questions.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I have 20 years of service on the council and I worked for 27 years as a postmaster. I've learned that you have to be a good listener and you have to try and represent the

viewpoints of all the citizens.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Tabor City, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Our region is getting ready to experience a tremendous boom in growth. We see it being proposed all around us. I want Tabor City to capitalize on this but still retain our reputation as a friendly and charming small town.



Royce Harper — Mayor

What is your age?:

62

How long have you lived in Tabor City?:

57 years

Who are your immediate family members?:

My wife, Lora Harper. Our children, Rebekka Powers (Matt), Jessica Davis (Buster), Jason Harper (Heather), Chase Bellamy (Emily) and Crystal Jones (Andrew). Our grandchildren, Roy, Mason and Spencer Powers; Dayton and Emily Davis, Axel and Paisley Harper; Elijah, Jayce and Stratton Bellamy; and Caroline and Mallory Jones.

Describe your education:

Graduate of Tabor City High School

What is your current occupation?:

I work at Tabor City Auto Parts. I operate the machine shop and also work the parts counter.

What is your prior professional experience?:

Worked in distribution during high school. I started with Tabor City Auto Parts in January 1980 and am still employed there.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

I was elected to the Tabor City Town Council in 1991. I became mayor in 2006.

Why are you running for office?:

I'm running for office because I love Tabor City. We have a very promising future with a lot of projects going on. I am close to our citizens and when someone comes to me with a concern, I listen and do what I can to help.


Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

The citizens of Tabor City have allowed me to work for them for 32 years. I have served un-

der some of the best mayors and council members in our area. I also served on the Cape Fear Council of Government Board of directors for several years.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Tabor City, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Hiring problems. Tabor City has many employees who are able to retire. We can advertise a position for weeks with no response. This is not only a problem for us but our nation.



CITY OF WHITEVILLE

Five vie for two Whiteville District 1 seats; Clarida, Mann unopposed for re-election

By JOSEPH WILLIAMS
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Two incumbents and three challengers are jockeying for the two available Whiteville City Council District 1 seats up for election this year.

Hoping to hang on to their seats this year are incumbents Kevin Williamson and Emory Worley. Williamson was first elected to council four years ago. Worley joined council after running unopposed for an unexpired term seat on council last year.

The three challengers are Shaq Davis, who has a background in public health, Josh Harris, formerly with the Whiteville Police Department, and William "Alex" Meeks, who works with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office.

Also on the ballot this year are District 2 representative Mayor Pro Tem Jimmy Clarida and Mayor Terry Mann. Clarida and Mann are running unchallenged for reelection to their seats on council this year.

Here are the submitted responses to *The News Reporter's* candidate survey for Whiteville City Council. Answers were edited for brevity and clarity.



Shaq Davis — District 1

What is your age?:

32

How long have you lived in Whiteville?:

Born and raised.

Who are your immediate family members?:

John D Cogdell, great grandfather; Anguelene C. Smith, grandmother; Annette Smith, mother; Glenwood Davis, father

Describe your education:

B.S. in public health with a concentration in community health from East Carolina University.

What is your current

occupation?:

Columbus County Partnership For Children Outreach Coordinator

What is your prior professional experience?:

I have six-plus years of experience effectively changing policies and promoting health in various public health roles. I am a certified minority diabetes prevention lifestyle coach, Safe Play Certified, GONAPSACC TA, Starting Strong (Tools for Effective Family Engagement and Leadership) Trainer

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Southeastern Community College Student Government Association Vice President 2010-2011

Why are you running for office?:

I am running for office to build a healthier, resilient district that's thriving and vibrant. We must take a look at our social determinants of health to efficiently respond to the health disparities facing our community and how addressing these issues could stimulate our local economy.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I am qualified to hold this position because I specialize in community and youth engagement. Through the training and experience gained through my professional career, I have been able to draw a direct link to how local government can help reduce adverse childhood experiences, build leaders and reverse unhealthy statistics through collaboration, conversation and partnership.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Whiteville, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

As a whole, Columbus County is still ranked one of the most unhealthy counties in North Carolina. Our town must review our built environment to ensure we are offering adequate access to green spaces, parks, recreational activities, skate parks, soccer fields, splash pads, etc. to encourage healthy habits and build a healthy district.



Josh Harris — District 1

What is your age?:

31

How long have you lived in Whiteville?:

I moved to Whiteville in 2016.

Who are your immediate family members?:

Erica Harris is my mother and Madisyn Harris is my daughter.

Describe your education:

I graduated from Bladen Community College with a degree in criminal justice.

What is your current occupation?:

I am an auto estimator at Ronald's Body Shop.

What is your prior professional experience?:

I'm a dedicated criminal justice graduate with experience as a law enforcement officer. I have proven my ability to handle difficult situations. I have a vast amount of experience working with team members to build and maintain a safe, secure environment.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

N/A

Why are you running for office?:

Just like you, I'm passionate about the City of Whiteville and I believe we need dedicated and involved leaders to manage the growth of our City.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I feel I am qualified for this position because of my background in public safety, along with my involvement in the community over the years.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Whiteville, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

I think one of the most pressing issues that our city is facing right now is flooding. I think the city should work with our state and federal government to secure funding to work towards a solution.



William "Alex" Meeks — District 1

What is your age?:

30

How long have you lived in Whiteville?:

I have lived in the City Limits over 5 years; 15 years, in the Pecan Orchard Community, just outside of the City Limits.

Who are your immediate family members?:

Meghan Worthington Meeks (Wife), Marley Michelle Meeks (Daughter), Mark Edward Meeks (Father), Carla Faulk Meeks (Mother), Alyssa Paige Meeks (Sister), Troy Allen Meeks (Brother)

Describe your education:

High school diploma (Whiteville High School), bachelor's of arts in criminology with a concentration in criminal justice along with minors in sociology and psychology (University of North Carolina at Wilmington), Basic Law Enforcement Certification (Southeastern Community College)

What is your current occupation?:

Uniform Patrol Division Sergeant with the Columbus County Sheriff's Office

What is your prior professional experience?:

FEMA Certifications in Incident Command System for Initial Response and National Incident Management System. Certifications in Emergency Management: Special Topics/Hazmat Exercise Training. I've applied for my Advanced Law Enforcement Certification through North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

No, I have never held an elected or appointed office.

Why are you running for office?:

From growing up in this community and

working with the public as a deputy, I have had the unique opportunity to have conversations with a wide variety of citizens in Whiteville. I have heard and observed the good, the bad and the ugly. I want to run for office to be a voice for all of our citizens and positively impact our community. When speaking with my wife about where we wanted to buy a home, we chose Whiteville, not just because our biological families are here, but also because our "village" is here. We all have heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Now that I have a child of my own, I understand fully what that means. I know at any point I could call any of our neighbors for anything and they would come running. I don't just have a house in Whiteville: Whiteville is my home. I have a fresh perspective that I would like to bring to the table. I feel as though I have modern solutions to many of the issues affecting our town, our home. I don't want to just talk about change, I want to be a part of it.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

If you ask my wife or any of my coworkers, they will say I am determined, passionate and sometimes strong-willed when I get focused on a task. Something I would like to put my mind to is growing and modernizing this town. Working as a supervisor, I have learned the importance of listening to all sides of a situation and making the best decision for all involved. This is what I would do for my community. I would listen to concerns, thoughts and suggestions, then take the actions to do something about it. When faced with issues, I will remain open-minded and explore all possible solutions before advocating for what I believe would be the best for our town as a whole. I will work tirelessly to accomplish the goals of bettering our community through my position on the city council.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Whiteville, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Growing up in Whiteville, I heard many of my

peers say they wanted to "get out of Whiteville." As we approached graduation, many of my classmates were contemplating a life far away from here. I couldn't help but think what a shame that was. All that talent, moving out of Whiteville instead of nurturing the community they were raised in. I am running for city council in hopes of cultivating our town into a place where people want to live, raise families and establish businesses. If elected to city council, I would invest in our youth, businesses and in making Whiteville a town our youth will want to start a family in. I want to expand Whiteville to include activities for teenagers and preteens, not just toddlers and elementary-aged children. We all have heard the saying about idle hands. Some of my ideas include growing the downtown area and expanding upon community-based activities such as the music events that occur downtown. These types of activities will give our citizens a chance to interact with one another and create a community beyond their physical community.



Kevin G. Williamson — District 1

What is your age?:

39

How long have you lived in Whiteville?:

My entire life, other than college and law school.

Who are your immediate family members?:

Wife, Melissa; children, Gwyneth, Grant and Abygail

Describe your education:

B.A. in sociology from N.C. State University, J.D. (Juris Doctorate) from Appalachian School of Law.

What is your current occupation?:

Attorney and small business owner.

WHITEVILLE
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What is your prior professional experience?:

I have been practicing law since I graduated law school in 2009. I've served on city council for the last 3.5 years.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Whiteville City Council since 2019.

Why are you running for office?:

Many years ago, an older attorney told me, public service is the rent that we pay for the right to practice in this community. He has since passed, but the truth is, this will always be the case. Whiteville is and will always be my home. If I can help this city by serving, I always will.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

Not only have I served on this council since 2019, I feel like I bring a unique skill set to this board. As an attorney, I am used to reading statutes and contracts daily. I have and will continue to work tirelessly for this town and its residents.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Whiteville, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Flooding continues to be our #1 issue. Economic development, crime, education and recreation are all important and we have taken great steps to address each, but given the area that we live in and the storms that we continue to deal with, none of the other issues we face can be addressed until we make sure this city doesn't regularly flood.



Emory Worley — District 1

What is your age?:

80

How long have you lived in Whiteville?:

20 years in town, 35 years near the city

Who are your immediate family members?:

Brenda N. Worley

Describe your education:

Whiteville High School graduate

Miller Motte Business College - Junior Accountant

What is your current occupation?:

Retired

What is your prior professional experience?:

Cost Accountant with a construction company for five years, assistant internal auditor in the banking industry for five years, Lowe's Home Improvements store manager for several locations for 16 years, established family building supply and manufacturing company- 8 locations for 21 years

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Presently serving Whiteville Town Council

Why are you running for office?:

Sincere interest in Whiteville's future. My desire is for Whiteville to be a place where citizens can earn a comfortable living-retire and stay here and live in a safe environment. Whiteville has excellent leadership which makes it a good place to serve.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

Long history of busi-

ness experience. Trusting in God to guide me. I am very committed to integrity, serving others and following good conservative business practices.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing Whiteville, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

1-Economic Development-growth comes from new entities. New entities produce good citizens. (P.S.) Possible Solution: We are thankful for our one new industry. However our goals and plans are weak to grow in the future.

2-Educational system that provides young people with quality education, morals, responsibility and a desire to produce a living for themselves. Good employees produce excellent companies. Excellent companies makes excellent towns. P.S.- It appears we are trying to over educate and leave out the basic knowledges of life.

3-Safe environment to shop, work and meet your goals of life. P.S. Every-one living responsibly.

4-Economic living cost. P.S. Buying your needs from local merchants to keep their cost down and the money at home.

5-Quality Housing-P.S.-Realtors. Finance and home builders should plan to meet the needs of the communities.



Jimmy Clarida — District 2

What is your age?:

72

How long have you lived in your town?:

50 years

Who are your immediate family members?:

Augustine Clarida

Describe your education:

Nakina High School, Bull City Barber College

What is your current occupation?:

Owner and operator at Jimmy's Barber Shop and Salon

What is your prior professional experience?:

Member of Barber Association Executive Board, treasurer and trustee at Central Baptist Church

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

Whiteville City Council for 23 years

Why are you running for office?:

I want to see the City of Whiteville continue improving.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I live here and understand the concerns of the citizens.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing your town, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

Flooding has always been an issue and continues to be an issue. The town has addressed the issue with resources that they have to work with and will continue addressing the issue when resources are available.



Terry Mann — Mayor

What is your age?:

71

How long have you lived in your town?:

My entire life

Who are your immediate family members?:

Married to Sally Dutton Mann. We have two sons, Joseph and Jacob.

Describe your education:

Graduate of Whiteville High School and received a B.S. in political science from East Carolina University

What is your current occupation?:

I retired in 2020 from my family's clothing store, J.S. Mann's, which opened in 1922.

What is your prior professional experience?:

I have only had one job since graduating from college so my professional experience is limited, up until my retirement, to operating a business and the responsibilities that come with that. While working and since retirement from the business I have stayed active to keep aware of the issues in our community.

Have you held or do you currently hold elected or appointed office?:

First elected as mayor of Whiteville in 2015 and currently am serving my fifth two-year term. Prior to that I was elected to city council in 2011 and served one four-year term.

Why are you running for office?:

I am a lifelong resident of Whiteville and this community helped support my family's business for nearly 100 years before my retirement. Because of this, I have a strong will to try to make Whiteville a great place to live. I just want to give back, and I want to make sure our city thrives and remains viable.

Why are you qualified to hold this position?:

I believe to be qualified to serve as mayor or any other elected position one must first have a love of their community. One must be honest and committed to doing the right thing for the most people. In addition to that, since my involvement with municipal government I have been involved with several organizations that enhance my knowledge of local government. I am currently serving a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina League of Municipalities and also pre-

viously served four years on the same board from 2015-2019. I also serve as vice-chairman of the Rural Transportation Planning Organization through the Cape Fear Council of Government. Being involved in both of these organizations affords me the opportunity to stay further abreast of issues that affect our city. It also gives me the opportunity to converse on a regular basis with other elected officials from across the state on issues, problems and innovative solutions. Aside from all this, I guess the most important qualification is to be a good, respectful listener, which I try to do.

What is one of the most pressing issues facing your town, and what do you think the town should do to address it?:

I'll start with the obvious which is flooding. A large area in Whiteville and especially in the downtown area is in a floodplain. This presents problems and challenges as flooding incidents have become more frequent. The city is currently working with two entities on projects and grant applications. We must continue to explore other solutions and projects.

There is a second issue, and that is water and sewer infrastructure. Aging infrastructure is a problem in all governments. Whiteville has aging water and sewer lines that are the original lines that were installed years ago. These lines have more than past their life expectancy. The process of replacing these lines is extremely expensive and finding funds to carry out these projects is a challenge. The city has adopted a study which has identified critical areas. Water and sewer is an issue that affects every citizen and business so it is necessary that it remains near the top of the list. There are numerous other challenges the city faces but these are probably the most pressing.



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