

ELECT YOUR

Bella Vista City Council

NOVEMBER 2, 2010

The Candidates

MAYOR

- Frank Anderson (incumbent)

CITY CLERK

- Jane Wilms (incumbent)

WARD 1

Position 1:

- Dave Barfield
- Doug Farner (incumbent)

Position 2:

- Patty J. Cox (incumbent)
- Julie Hull
- J.D. Shrum

WARD 2

Position 1:

- Larry Wilms
- Jim Wozniak

Position 2:

- George Holmes
- Dick Rooney (incumbent)

WARD 3

Position 1:

- Earl Berdine (incumbent)
- Deirdre Boling-Lewis

Position 2:

- Arline Hutchinson (incumbent)

Note: Holmes currently holds Position 1 in Ward 2. He changed to Position 2 for this year's election.

Early Voting

Early voting for the Nov. 2 general election begins Monday, Oct. 18.

Any registered voter, regardless of precinct, can take advantage of early voting.

Ballots can be cast at Riordan Hall Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Early voting is available Oct. 18-30.

Bella Vistans will vote for the mayor and city clerk positions, as well as all six aldermen seats on the City Council.

Aldermen positions are elected at large, meaning a voter casts a ballot for every position, regardless of where the voter resides.

Bella Vista is divided into three wards, with two positions per ward. Voters choose a candidate in every position.

The mayor and city clerk positions are four-year terms.

Currently, aldermen serve two-year terms with all six seats up for election at the same time. Voters will decide this year if the term of service should remain at two years or if aldermen should serve four-year staggered terms with only three seats up for election at the same time. If passed, the term changes would not take effect until 2012.

PROVIDED BY



Contested Races

■ Ward 1, Position 1

Dave Barfield

A man experienced with a property owners association morphing into a city is running for a city council seat. Dave Barfield has pitted himself against incumbent Doug Farner for Ward 1, Position 1.

"I perceive problems in the way the current City Council is focusing on recent issues," he said of one of the reasons he's running.

After retiring from Lockheed Martin, with 41 years in the aerospace industry, Barfield and his wife, Jane, moved to Bella Vista in 2007.

They lived in several communities in Texas with POA's and both served on a board of directors. One of the towns incorporated as a city, just like Bella Vista did a few years ago.

"So we are very familiar with the growing pains that transition brings," he said.

While stating that officials have made a good start at creating the city, Barfield said, "We seem to have lost that momentum."

Barfield is concerned about overly-restrictive ordinances and the possibility of raised property taxes.

The creation of a street department, Barfield believes, is occurring in "a financially irresponsible and an apparent covert and closed manner which should be unacceptable in city government."

Barfield served on the Street Department Committee that researched and documented options for the city to begin a department of its own.

"None of us ... were opposed to the creation of a city street department," he said, but he is adamant that property taxes should not be increased to



BARFIELD

pay for such an operation.

"There must be a better, low-cost solution negotiated with the POA. Open, public hearings should also be considered."

Long-range strategic planning is high on Barfield's list of items that need attention.

He proposes a committee of qualified resident volunteers be appointed by an independent arbitrator to create a 5-10 year plan.

Better communication is also essential.

"I would start by opening up issues we face to more public input," Barfield said, adding that town-hall style meetings would give residents an opportunity to voice their concerns and exchange information in an informal environment.

"We also have important issues to face in the future like annexing land and relocating city offices to a larger building."

"Simply stated, I stand for open government and fiscal responsibility."

The Barfields believe in taking an active role in their community and they volunteer at local organizations. Dave has served as chairman of the POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee and is currently president of the Bella Vista FlyTyers Club.

Doug Farner

A third-term City Council member has announced he will seek re-election. Doug Farner is currently alderman in Ward 1, Position 1 and serving as Mayor Pro-Tem, which means he carries the full authority of the office when Mayor Frank Anderson is unavailable.

Farner said there are several major things the council will have to address in the future such as working toward taking over the water de-

partment from the Property Owners Association and setting up a street department.

Completing and implementing a long-range plan for orderly growth and economic development is another area.

"Each of these areas will require a great deal of effort and experience and I would like to be a part of the process."

In his latest term Farner was chairman of the Operational Planning Committee that examined personnel and equipment needs of the fire and police departments. The committee made recommendations to the city council on how to finance those needs as well.

He was also chairman of the Sales Tax Steering Committee, which educated residents as to the need for a sales tax; 60 percent of those voting agreed that the police and fire departments had significant needs and approved the tax. It began April 1.

The city incorporated in 2007 and Farner has been on the city council from the start. He said the mayor and council have passed approximately 75 ordinances and 150 resolutions that cover everything from how the city will conduct meetings to building codes.

"All of this has been challenging, and sometimes a little frustrating, but most of the time it is very rewarding and I still have the interest and energy to help."

Farner said he always listens to the voters and tries to make decisions based on what the majority of residents want balanced against what is best for Bella Vista in the long run.



FARNER

■ Ward 1, Position 2

Patty J. Cox

Patty Jean Cox is seeking re-election to the Bella Vista City Council.

"My first two-year term included a lot of learning and some difficult decisions," she said.

The way city resolutions and ordinances work through the system is one of the things she had to learn.

"Ordinances have to be heard three times," Cox said, "I didn't know that before."

In addition, she said the financing of city services is a complex issue that she has had to study. Cox said she has had to deal with some difficult and complicated issues, such as reviewing and accepting proposed regulations from the Planning Commission and the parking of recreational vehicles on private property.

Cox was elected to the council seat in 2008. She is the incumbent in Ward 1, Position 2; Julie Hull and J.D. Shrum are running against her. City Council seats are elected at large, meaning that residents will vote for all six positions regardless of where they reside in the city.

"I have found the present members and the mayor to be a group that functions well. It is not that we all agree but we all respect each others opinions and votes. This makes for a good working relationship," Cox said.

A resident of Bella Vista for the past 12 years, Cox had previous political experience as a long-time member of an Iowa school board. She is a retired registered nurse.

"I try to listen to everyone and have the best interests of our young city as an agenda," she said.



COX

Council seat.

"Bella Vista is my home and where I see a bright future for my family," candidate Julie Hull said. "I want to ensure that everyone has a voice. I will serve the citizens by being available and taking their concerns forward."

One of her stated goals is "to foster an environment of open communication and cooperation between the City of Bella Vista and the Bella Vista Property Owners Association."

Hull said that both entities serve the residents of Bella Vista and need to work together.

A Bachelor's Degree in business management completed Hull's education. She worked at Arvest Bank for 12 years, starting as a teller and working her way into management. She served on the Bella Vista Business Association Board and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary Post 9063.

Hull is serving her third year as the Yearbook Chairman for the Cooper Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization and is an active member of the Community Church.

She ran for City Council in 2008, and beat the incumbent, Doug Farmer, by popular vote. However, the state requires a 50 percent plus one vote majority to declare a winner, so a runoff was necessary. Farmer won the runoff and kept his council seat. "I'm not a quitter," Hull said, and this time has pitted herself against incumbent Patty Cox and J.D. Shrum in Ward 1, Position 2.

Candidates must live in the ward to run for an alderman seat, but are allowed to choose the position.

Hull's husband, Tim, serves on the POA Board.

"We're two different people and we don't always agree," Hull said of her husband. "I don't see where opposi-

tion, or conflict exists (related to his position).

"We have seen what happens when the city and the POA don't play well together. It is time to put aside our differences, find common ground and work to serve our constituents."

The Hulls have two young sons, Michael and Andrew. Both attend Cooper Elementary School.

J.D. Shrum

Another candidate for City Council has tossed his hat in the ring.

Bella Vista resident J.D. Shrum declared his intention to seek an alderman seat in Ward 1 in March.

Shrum said he has been in public service since he was 19, and now has the time to see if he can be of benefit to the community in city administration.

He worked in law enforcement for 27.5 years, a big share of that time in the Benton County Sheriff's Department, where he attained the rank of chief deputy.

Shrum said he is knowledgeable about multimillion dollar budgets and dealt with the Quorum Court. He added he is well versed with city management as well as state and federal governments.

Shrum has taught criminal justice at Northwest Arkansas Community College for five years, working with high school students earning college credit.

degree in leadership and ethics from John Brown University.



SHRUM

Platforms that Shrum will stand for include safety departments and working with the Property Owners Association.

Julie Hull

A community-oriented resident has declared her desire for a City

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"For years the fire and police departments have been severely understaffed; the sales tax will help as a lot more needs to be done," Shrum said.

Shrum is concerned that the relationship between the city and the POA appears to be strained and offers himself as "someone with a more practical point of view."

He noted that four members of the city council have POA Board experience and perhaps still think that way.

Street maintenance is a piece of this puzzle as well.

"The City is contracting out over \$1 million a year for street maintenance with the POA. POA members-city residents are paying twice for the same service, through POA dues and the city sales tax.

"We are also paying twice for police and fire services ... I believe the POA should hold up their end of the bargain and assist in providing those services promised in the covenant. I feel an equitable solution could be negotiated."

He plans to campaign hard with signs, brochures and doorbell ringing to discover concerns and view-

points of the residents and represent those at the City Council.

Shrum's spouse, Barb, is a Bella Vista police detective, but he pointed out that staffing and personnel decisions are not made by the City Council. If an issue should arise that would affect her, Shrum said he would recuse himself.

All city council positions are open for election Nov. 4; Bella Vista has three wards with two seats each.

Candidates must live in the ward they run in, but all Bella Vista residents will vote for all of the candidates regardless of ward.

■ Ward 2, Position 1

Larry Wilms

Larry Wilms said he wants to make Bella Vista a better place to live by building on its uniqueness and character. He hopes to do that by winning a seat on the City Council in November.

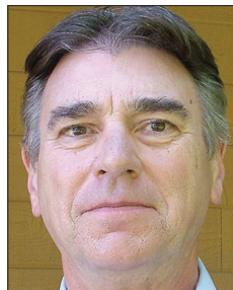
Wilms, a resident of the city for three years, is running in Ward 2, Position 1 against Jim Wozniak.

Wilms believes his 35 years of experience in engineering — in consulting and as both an assistant and city engineer — will help him be a good alderman.

He previously served two years as the Bella Vista Property Owners Association's water utility director.

"(That experience) provides great perspective into what approach would best serve the unique needs of a new city like Bella Vista," his campaign literature states.

He said there are a number of issues facing taxpayers, including providing water to "island areas," or small pockets of population that were annexed in recent years; expanding the city's boundaries for developing businesses in order to broaden the tax base; and keeping the local tax rate



WILMS

as low as possible, while at the same time keeping services the city needs.

He also wants to establish a street department using equipment from the POA and work for improved efficiency and effectiveness in street maintenance and repair.

"As alderman, I will work to create the vision for the city five, 10, 15, 20, 50 years down the road. We then need to establish the goals and objectives that match that vision," he said.

"I feel the city has been struggling with what's important and critical to getting the city going. Without a vision, it's too easy to get bogged down with issues that will follow implementing the foundations of city government, like a street department.

"I believe that the council needs to be responsive to the needs and desires of the residents. I am a conservative and believe that less government is more beneficial to its residents."

Wilms and his wife, Jane, are members of Beautiful Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, where he has served as council president for the past four years.

His hobbies include hunting, fishing and doing home improvement projects of all types.

He is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Water Works Association.

This is Wilms' second campaign for city office. He first ran for council

in 2008 and was defeated by Dick Rooney in a runoff.

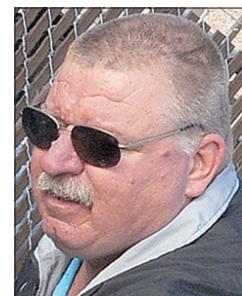
Jane Wilms is employed as the city clerk.

Jim Wozniak

Bella Vista's former police chief is seeking a seat on the City Council.

Jim Wozniak is running for Ward 2, Position 1.

"Woz," as he is known by many, is a 33-year resident of the city and a 39-year veteran of law enforcement. Fourteen of those years were spent as Bella Vista's chief law-enforcement officer.



WOZNIAK

He also has served eight years on the Benton County Quorum Court on that group's finance, grievance and environmental committees.

Wozniak said he wants to serve the city for a number of reasons.

"It's been good to me, and I want to give back. And I'm not real impressed with what some on the council have done," he said.

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Specifically, Wozniak said he wants to put a stop to the City Council's tendency to alter proposed ordinances and resolutions throughout the approval process.

"There are three reads, and they change it (the documents) every time. They should leave it alone so the people know where you're at."

He also wants the city's work sessions to be on a hard schedule and not put on the calendar at the whim of the aldermen.

There are a number of top issues facing the city, according to the candidate. Money tops his list.

"I don't think the city has any of it to speak of. One disaster could wipe them out," he said.

He agreed that nobody wants to raise taxes, "but where is the money coming from?" he asked.

Wozniak said the 1 percent sales tax that began in April seems to be producing well, but he wonders how long that will last.

As for plans to create a street department in the next two years, Wozniak said it's a good plan but needs more work.

"They should have left it open-ended instead of putting a (final) date on it. And maybe we didn't pursue all the options," he said.

He said even if the Bella Vista Property Owners Association gives the city the equipment and facilities it needs, "it's still going to cost us money."

Wozniak said his experience working as a police officer and on the Quorum Court have prepared him for the position of alderman.

"Look at what I did over there," he said, referring to the Police Department. "If I did a good job, then vote for me. Vote for somebody you know with a good track record."

Wozniak is also involved in the community as a member of both the Bella Vista Sunrise Rotary Club and the Bentonville-Bella Vista Noon Lions, vice president of Bella Vista AARP Chapter 109 and a volunteer at Northwest Medical Center and Mercy Medical Center.

Wozniak's wife, Susan, owns Makin' Waves beauty salon in Bella Vista.

■ Ward 2, Position 2

George Holmes

A local businessman is vying for a third term on the City Council.

George Holmes has served as an alderman since the Council was first formed in 2006.

Holmes has lived in Bella Vista for 30 years and is part owner and manager of The Maintenance Company. He also serves as vice president of Vacation Rentals and a member of the Architectural Control Committee.

Neither the Maintenance Company nor Vacation Rentals are owned by Cooper Communities Inc.

"I have no say in Cooper business and they have no say in ours," Holmes said.

He and wife Diane are members of the Bella Vista Community Church and maintain an active role in the community.

Chairman and founder of the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter Golf Tournament, Holmes has "a deep passion" for the future of the city.

"When I moved to Bella Vista, there



HOLMES

was only a population of 5,000. I have witnessed the growth of the city exceed to over 25,000. I have a very strong knowledge of the workings of the developer and the Property Owners Association before we became a city.

"I have observed many changes, some good, yet some bad. My hope is to lead Bella Vista in a positive direction that represents a better working relationship between the POA and the city.

"We must strive and work together to maintain the core values of Bella Vista that brought us to the village in the first place."

Holmes and his wife have two grown children who also reside in Bella Vista.

Holmes is running for Ward 2, Position 2, against incumbent Dick Rooney. Holmes changed position within the ward, which is allowable under state law, when he filed his intent to seek office with the County Clerk's office.

"When I saw the other two people running in my ward, I felt like I would rather run against Rooney than Wozniak," Holmes said. Jim Wozniak and Larry Wilms are running for Ward 2, Position 1.

Holmes considers himself a straight-forward type of person.

"I say exactly what I mean," he said.

Dick Rooney

"A voice for the people," is seeking re-election. City Alderman Dick Rooney said he wants to continue his representation.

As an alderman for the past two years, Rooney said he has learned a great deal, including insights into the wants and need of residents.

Rooney said he had pretty much decided not to seek re-election, but as the lone dissenting voice to the formation of a city street department, he believes he needs to persevere as a voice for the residents.

"After giving it much thought, and encouragement by city residents, I have decided to file for re-election to the Bella Vista City Council," he said. Rooney is not against forming a city street department, "but not right now." He favors opening communication with the Property Owners Association and see if city officials can work with them to



ROONEY

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resolve the issue of equipment and buildings.

The city should continue contracting with the POA for street maintenance for now, and perhaps the next several years; Rooney said his biggest concern is how a city street department will be funded.

"I am dead against any new taxes for the street department and new

buildings. Why should people pay for things twice, like new buildings?"

"We don't have enough money to maintain all the streets now."

Opening more avenues of communication with residents is important to Rooney as well.

One of the ways to improve communications is a user friendly Web site; Rooney suggested City Council

members should be in contact with local clubs and organizations.

"The City Council works for the taxpayers, they are our boss and open communications are vital," he said.

Rooney remains active in community organizations, such as the FlyTyers Club and the Bella Vista Community Church.

■ Ward 3, Position 1

Earl Berdine

Self-proclaimed conservative and City Council member Earl Berdine has decided to run for re-election.

"My intention has been to help guide the city of Bella Vista, to provide the best possible municipal services at the most economical cost possible," he said.

Berdine currently holds Position 1 in Ward 3, the west side of Bella Vista. He has been on the city council since incorporation in 2007.

An active member of the community, and a resident since 1996, Berdine is a past member of the Bella Vista Property Owners Association Board of Directors. He served on the committee that helped bring about the city's incorporation and volunteered for the transition team that organized city administration.

There are still important issues facing the city that Berdine believes he can help with, such as the street department and revision of the subdivision ordinance.

"I believe that with my experience and knowledge of those issues, I can be a positive influence in resolving them," he said.

Having served as chairman and co-chairman of the Street Committees in 2009 and 2010, Berdine said he has studied the situation carefully.

"It is advantageous for the POA and the city to find workable solutions to

common issues that benefit both, and are most economical to both."

The city currently contracts with the POA for street maintenance, but Berdine believes that is not a situation that can continue indefinitely.

He said the POA is essentially a park and recreation department and pointed out that other cities' parks and recreation departments have their own equipment.

He added the POA could not be expected to add people and equipment to accommodate the city's continued growth.

Negotiating with the POA for a long-term solution only makes sense.

"It stands to reason that the city administration and the POA should work together for the common good," he said.

He believes part of the subdivision ordinance needs to be reworked.

"We need to get (details) ironed out while protecting the essence of Bella Vista and not making unreasonable requirements on developers."

He said an example of an unreasonable requirement was the owner of a new veterinary clinic on Dartmoor Road is being required to install sidewalks that do not connect to anything.

Deirdre Boling-Lewis

A run for City Council started with a cat that got away.

Deirdre Boling-Lewis, and husband Chad, have a much-loved indoor cat that escaped and disappeared several months ago. They put up fliers and talked to the neighbors, most of

whom they did not know.

"The response was overwhelming," Boling-Lewis said; they found the cat within 24 hours.

"We moved around a lot when I was young, and as a young adult, the idea of a community that reaches out over a cat ... it's where I want to raise my son."

The family has lived in Bella Vista for approximately eight years and their son is 20 months old. Her parents live in Bella Vista as well.

Her mother is Debra Lewis, who serves on the Bella Vista Planning Commission.

"If there were a conflict, I would recuse myself. My mother says I haven't listened to her since I was 14, so it shouldn't be a problem," Boling-Lewis said.

The sense of community is what led her to the idea that she could make a difference in local government.

Boling-Lewis is an associate general counsel at Walmart. As an attorney, Boling-Lewis drafts and negotiates agreements, provides legal advice on business issues and legislative matters and interprets laws.

"My background and training as a lawyer and my long-time residence in the community have prepared me well to handle the types of matters a city alderman is likely to face. I have



BOLING-LEWIS

ideas and a fresh perspective."

There are several areas that Boling-Lewis would like to see improved.

"Bella Vista needs a strong conflict-of-interest and ethics policy to guide not only the City Council but also all city agencies in their business transactions and governmental decisions,"

she said.

She also would like to see more transparency so that residents are fully informed to evaluate the work that their representatives do on their behalf. One of the ways to do this is to publish all committee work and minutes on the city's Web site — a more pro-active,

aggressive approach, she said.

Boling-Lewis is against raising taxes at this point, citing the economy; but still the city needs money to make improvements.

She believes businesses and retailers should be offered incentives and lower taxes in order to increase revenue.

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