

Republicans to Square Off in Supervisors' Primary

Planning Commissioner Jack Wilson and opponent Dorothy Jaeckle answer questions from the Village News about their platforms for the June primary.

Village News: Why did you decide to run?

Jack Wilson: Chesterfield County has given a lot to my family by providing a solid education for my children, a safe and secure place to raise my family and the benefits of living in a thriving community. I see serving on the Board of Supervisors as a way of giving back to the community. Chesterfield County is at a real transition point in its history. We have come from a more rural county to a much more suburban, and in some places, urban, community. The experienced leaders like Dickie King, Lane Ramsey and Chief Baker who have guided us this far are stepping aside, and it is time for a new set of leaders to plot the course for the next phase in the county's evolution. I believe I have the experience to help provide that leadership as we look for ways to solve the new issues that we are facing as a county. I was also encouraged by the outpouring of support from many business and community leaders, friends, family, members of my church, as well as virtually all the elected officials in Chesterfield county as I made this decision.

VN: Can you give us a sense of your experience?

JW: I have been active in the Republican Party for many years, serving in a number of capacities, including Chairman of the Chesterfield County Republican Committee, serving on the State Central Committee and having the honor of being elected [as] a Delegate to the Republican National Convention in 2004. I have had the privilege of serving on the Planning Commission the past three-plus years and being Chairman last year. The scope of that appointment is the land use and planning for the County and I have learned quite a bit.

I have also been active in educational issues in Chesterfield County. I served as president of the Chesterfield County Council of PTAs and as a member of the CCPS superintendent's budget advisory committee.

VN: What do you see as the major issues in Chesterfield and the Bermuda District?

JW: Clearly growth is a significant issue for the county, and we need to find new ways to manage that growth. Chesterfield County is a very desirable place to live and the demand for new housing in the county is understandable. It is important that we steer that demand into areas where we have the infrastructure to meet the needs of our existing citizens as well as our new neighbors. A thorough review of all our comprehensive plans which guide our growth is in order to see where we can provide incentives for development in areas where we have the infrastructure

to support new housing, and at the same time, identify those areas where infrastructure is lacking and develop means to discourage growth in those areas. It is vital that new growth pay for itself without creating a burden on the rest of the county.

Transportation is also a major issue. I think it is time for all of us to realize that the state is not going to meet all our road construction needs and that we as a county will have to take more of that burden on ourselves. The current Board has started that process with its current transportation program, and I think the next Board will have to look at even more ambitious approaches to solving our own

transportation needs, while at the same time, continuing to demand that the State satisfy its obligation to the county.

The amount citizens are paying in property taxes must also be addressed. Everyone would agree that we must pay for those vital services that make our county the desirable place to live that it is. However, in this environment of escalating assessments, we must not look at those new revenues as more money that the county can spend. We must reduce the tax rate to the lowest level possible, while at the same time meeting the essential needs of the community. We simply cannot price people out of their houses, and we must develop programs to ease the property tax burden on our retired neighbors on fixed incomes. We must also continue the efforts made by the current Board in encouraging more business development in the county. Increased business in the county lessens the pressure on the homeowners to pay for all the essential services.

VN: Why should the citizens of Bermuda vote for you in the June Republican primary?

JW: Obviously, the scope of the Board of Supervisors is much broader [than that of the Planning Commission]. I have been very fortunate in serving with Dickie King. He has treated me as a partner in not only the land use issues, but many of the other issues facing the county. Dickie, Marshall Trammell (the Bermuda School Board member) and I have been a real team in addressing the issues facing our part of the county, and it is that teamwork that has led to many successes, such as Northrop Grumman deciding to locate in the Meadowville Technology Park and soon the openings of a new elementary school and middle school in the Enon area. I plan to continue that team approach for Bermuda.

VN: Can you tell us briefly about your family?

JW: My wife Brigetta and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary in July. We have four children: Meghann, Jack IV, Amanda and Allie.

Village News: Why did you decide to run?

Dorothy Jaeckle: I was approached by a group of citizens in January that were dissatisfied with the Bermuda District representation on the Board of Supervisors. They echoed concerns I had been hearing throughout the year at various functions. Running for political office was something I had never considered doing. At first, I was very reluctant to leave the comfort zone of my life.

What did I have on my plate that others didn't have? I believe the intention of our [country's] founders was for ordinary citizens to step forward and represent their fellow citizens in matters of government service. My family has lived in Chester for 25 years. My four children were raised here and had a very high quality of life in our community. Many good people gave up their personal time to serve as elected officials representing our family.

After talking it over with family and friends, I decided to move forward to let the citizens have that choice. I began asking questions and listening to what the citizens were dissatisfied with beyond the negative publicity the Bermuda District was receiving due to the personal life of our supervisor. I am very excited about the encouragement and support I have received from citizens throughout the community.

VN: Can you give us a sense of your experience?

DJ: In addition to serving in a variety of positions on PTA boards including vice president of the County Council, I have served on a wide range of committees working towards improving the path the government takes to improve the lives of the people it represents. These positions include Board of Supervisors appointee as the Bermuda District Representative for Chesterfield County Committee on the Future from 1992-2004 (including a term as Chair); Speaker of the House appointee as Parent Representative on the Senate Joint Resolution Commission on Educational Accountability; Governor Gilmore appointee on the Advisory Council on Virginia Business-Education Partnership; and Governor Allen appointee on the Advisory Board for Teacher Education and Licensure.

VN: What do you see as the major issues in Chesterfield and the Bermuda District?

DJ: I would like to see the Board of Supervisors change the property tax process. I believe the rate should be set at the rollback rate (the tax rate that would exist if the rate adjusted for increases in assessments), as required by state law. The new rate should then be set at the next meeting of the supervisors by starting with the rollback rate and making conscious, open adjustments to reflect inflation, population growth and any specific county needs, such as operating costs for a new library, an increase in police services or an increase in the school budget to reflect

explicit new expenses such as student population growth, operating costs of a new school or increases in salary costs. This approach would shed light on government spending and provide truth in taxation. The current method allows supervisors to claim they have cut taxes when they have actually only cut tax rates, while tax revenues (and citizens' tax bills) have actually increased due to rising assessments.

Most citizens that I have spoken with realize that development will happen. However, they want, and expect from their Supervisors, wisely managed development. In particular, they want the infrastructure supporting the development built up front. I would support the county allowing

the use of land-based bonds, otherwise known as CDAs, to build infrastructure (especially roads) up front with special tax districts (those benefiting from the development) being used to pay back the bonds. I think Branner Station would be the perfect opportunity for this method of financing. This way the East-West road and improvements to the 288-Chester Rd. interchange would be made before development. The county must think more progressively in its building of roads. The county must also concentrate on upgrading infrastructure and bringing new development to our older areas.

I will work with the School Board to provide high academic standards and a safe and well-disciplined environment. The School Board needs to accelerate a solution to the Thomas Dale overcrowding situation. I was surprised when, in 2002, the School Board turned over old Carver on a permanent basis to Community High School, which is operating under capacity, when all the numbers showed Thomas Dale would be drastically overcrowded in 2005 with no new high school in sight.

Chesterfield must continue to attract businesses to the county. I am glad Mr. King worked to make Chesterfield business friendly. Businesses not only contribute to our tax base, but more importantly, businesses provide jobs and choices for our citizens. I will work with businesses to continue to improve those policies considered business friendly.

VN: Why should you citizens of Bermuda vote for you in the June Republican primary?

DJ: I believe my opponent in the primary will be Jack Wilson. I have worked with Jack in the past on school issues and like him very much. Unfortunately, many citizens, including myself, believe his occupation as a zoning lawyer presents too many opportunities for conflicts of interest in representing the citizens of the Bermuda District. I also believe I will be able to dedicate more time and energy to representing the community and being assessable to its citizens.

VN: Can you tell us briefly about your family?

DJ: I have been married to Ron Jaeckle for 31 years. We have four children: Kate, Beth, Jeff and Carrie.

Obituary

Terry Lee Anderson

Terry Lee Anderson, 53, of Chester, passed away peacefully at his home on March 25, 2007, after fighting a four-year battle with colon cancer. He leaves behind his wife, Suzanne Watkins Anderson, of Chester; daughter Elaine Bartulewicz Biedler and husband Andy of Colonial Heights; daughter Laura Bartulewicz Barker and husband Michael of Chester. Terry is survived by his mother, Juliet H. Anderson, of Colonial Heights and preceded in death by his father, William E. Anderson. He is also survived by two sisters, Jeanne Anderson Cottle of Goldsboro, N.C. and Judy Hartman and husband Bryan of Dinwiddie; father-and mother-in-law, James and Dolores Watkins of Matoaca; and numerous nieces and nephews. His first grandchild is due on May 18. Terry was employed for almost 30 years by Honeywell, Inc. in Hopewell, as a chemical shift supervisor on "D" shift. Terry was an avid hunter, sports enthusiast and loved the outdoors. Terry also enjoyed his Labrador retrievers and cats. Terry was a gentle and giving man that loved his family dearly. Terry's quick wit, sense of humor and loving spirit left a mark on this world that will be forever remembered. Anyone who met him did not soon forget him. The family would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the Massey Cancer Center at Stony Point and the wonderful physicians, nurses and staff who cared for Terry over the years. The family will receive friends at the J.T. Morriss & Son Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Chesterfield on Wednesday, March 28, 2007 from 5 to 9 p.m. Funeral services will follow there on Thursday, at 3 p.m. Interment will take place in Sunset Memorial Park, Chester. Flowers are being received at the funeral home, or memorial contributions may be made to the Massey Cancer Center in Terry's memory. Condolences may be registered at www.jtmorriss.com.

Battery Dantzler

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also recognized Boy Scout Curtis Welch from Boy Scout Troop 879 with a plaque and certificate for leading his troop and their efforts for clearing and cleaning of the site.

All through the event, artillery salutes were given, while Eric Chandler gave the history of the Battery; Ruth Snead, in period mourning costume, read the biography of Commander Major Francis W. Smith; and Sam Tarry, with Chester Station Camp #1503, past commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans camp, read the biography of Colonel Olin M. Dantzler. Cannons were provided by Knibb's Battery, with Capt. Jim Cochrane commanding, and 1st Virginia Cavalry, with Capt. Dick Hanser commanding.

Bermuda Supervisor R.M. "Dickie" King was recognized for his support with a generous grant from Chesterfield County for the project.

The main speaker of the event was John Quarstein, director with the Virginia War Museum, speaking on the James River ironclads.

The color guard of the Chester Station Camp #1503, Sons of Confederate Veterans presented and retired the Colors.