

Candidates speak out on important election issues

By Sam Bari and Tom Shevlin

Michael White— Democrat



If elected to the council, Michael White promises to aggressively pursue funding that is due Jamestown through state and federal sources for everything from infrastructure to education.

He believes voters should elect him because he is a good communicator, facilitator, and arbitrator. "I believe in listening to and considering what everybody has to say," White said.

He also said the next council should focus on water management, affordable housing, infrastructure and education as issues that require immediate attention. For the long term, White believes controlling development and overbuilding are absolute necessities. He also feels the town must continue to be diligent in providing good education, affordable housing, and keeping the island affordable for those who live here and whose children want to continue to live here.

Fiscally, White believes that responsible spending is more important than trimming the budget. He also believes it is important to

pursue all available resources for additional funding for town projects and infrastructure needs.

White earned a bachelor's degree in English from Cal State, in Los Angeles. He was in charge of public contract and benefit information for the Veterans Administration for 14 of the 30 years he worked for the organization.

"My inspiration to be elected comes from my desire to preserve this beautiful community where my family and I have chosen to live. It's a neat place and I want to help keep it that way," White said.

White ran for town council once before and was 22 votes short of being elected.

Ellen Winsor— Independent



Ellen Winsor is hoping to ride a wave of concern over Jamestown's water supply to election next month.

"I hope to educate islanders completely on the need to protect our island's water supply, so Jamestown citizens are comfortable and accepting of the facts that the water district, the reservoir through the municipal wells, and private wells, all access and depend on the aquifer to one degree or another. The aquifer and

the reservoirs must be protected," Winsor said.

Running as an independent, Winsor brings with her a diverse background that includes a bachelor's from Wells College, and a background as a Supervisor and Clinical Instructor of Boston's Beth Israel Hospital Respiratory Therapy Department. However, Winsor is better known around town as a vocal proponent for classifying the island as a sole-source aquifer. Her involvement in that issue is what inspired her to run and it's that issue that she believes is the most urgent matter the next council should address. "Protecting our water supply, bringing it online and making drinkable the water in the second reservoir, expanding water tie-ins through grants to existing residences to generate revenue, education about our aquifer and protection through The Clean Water Act," are all important steps that need to be taken in the next two years according to Winsor.

In addition, Winsor cites the need to generate additional revenue to offset the town's water and sewer debts as well as creating more affordable housing on the island in the hopes of "holding gentrification at bay." In the long-term, Winsor is cautious about the impact global warming could have on the island's wells, while energy issues including the possibil-

ity of facing a shortfall in natural gas also must be considered. As for why Jamestown voters should elect her, Winsor was succinct. "I'll do the right thing by the community," she said.

Barbara Szepatowski— Republican



Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski is running for her second term in office. If elected, she wants to establish a Jamestown Juvenile Hearing Board that will couple with a volunteer corps to complete a community service project each month. The volunteer corps would join responsible adults with Jamestown kids who have been arrested for non-drug related crimes. She said the hearing board would provide the kids with new role models. She also said that she was granted money in the town's 2007-2008 budget for supplies for this board.

According to Szepatowski, the main challenges facing Jamestown during the next council term are affordable housing, water and sewer costs, the state budget crisis, and inspiring more people to become involved in town government.

In the long term, she feels that funding the town's needs if the state budget crisis is not resolved,

addressing fluctuating school enrollments, keeping our seniors on the island, and maintaining a vibrant downtown business district will be the major challenges.

Szepatowski said that she believes people will vote for her because she listens with an open mind, is capable of making a decision, is patient but passionate, able to keep things in perspective, and volunteers a lot of time for kids and animal projects. "Most importantly, I have a good sense of humor so I don't take myself too seriously," she said.

She believes that trimming the budget will depend on how the state proceeds. "No one account sticks out as having too much fluff," she said.

"Good government listens, and is responsive to the needs of the residents while providing the highest level of services and care for its residents that is affordable," Szepatowski said.

Councilwoman Szepatowski earned a bachelor's degree in environmental management and engineering from the University of Rhode Island. She also took graduate level courses in hazardous waste management.

Her prior government experience is one term on the town council.

Szepatowski's inspiration to run for re-election stems from her desire "to make our town the best it can be, while appreciating

Candidates continued on next page

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