

Foushee says she'll seek another term

by Kirk Ross
Staff Writer

Between a packed board of commissioners meeting schedule and a four-class schedule at Carolina, Orange County Commissioner Valerie Foushee said this week she plans to find time to file for re-election.

Foushee, a former chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board of Education who won a seat on the board of commissioners in 2004, said she wants to continue to work on making sure school construction and renovations proceed at a proper pace. But should she win another term, Foushee, 52, said she wants to concentrate on county responsibilities that are not as visible as schools – including affordable housing, reducing homelessness and maintaining a health and human services safety net at a time when the

state's mental health system is in crisis.

"Affordable housing is still a passion for me," Foushee said in an interview Wednesday. The county and the towns, she said, have worked hard to make sure that there is a supply of affordable housing. Foushee said that while having a diverse supply of housing is important, making sure that agencies have the money to maintain the homes is a key part of the strategy.

Foushee said she's glad to see the county well on its way to revising its comprehensive plan, which has not been done on a large scale since 1981.

Identifying areas where the county is likely to grow and coming up with a strategy for those areas is an important part of managing growth, she said.

Developing the county's commercial tax base and growing economic opportunities

are essential, she said, with an increase in the commercial tax base being critical to providing tax relief for homeowners.

Foushee said she has not decided whether to file for a District 1 seat or to run at large, but indicated she is leaning toward running for the at-large seat.

"In my time as commissioner, I've developed relationships with people from all over the county," she said.

She said she supported the idea of district representation, but wants to make sure residents understand that those elected from the districts will represent the whole county.

When she files, Foushee will join Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board chair Pam Hemminger, who has filed to run in the District 1 primary, and Tommy McNeill, of Durham, who has filed to run in the District 2 primary.

OBITUARIES

Mary M. Norwood-Jones

Mary M. Norwood-Jones was born in Durham on May 9, 1933 to the late Nora M. Norwood. She attended Orange County Training School and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1951.

She was a member of First Baptist Church. At the age of twelve, she joined Rock Hill Baptist Church.

After graduating from Lincoln High School, she attended North Carolina College at Durham for Negroes, which is now N.C. Central University.

While attending college she was married to Edward E. Jones on August 21, 1952, in Conway, S.C.

Graduated in 1956 with a major in health and physical education and a double-minor in education and history, she taught in dependent military schools between 1956 and 1959 in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. After coming stateside in 1959, she taught and coached girls basketball at South Hampton County training schools in VA., and later taught in Washington D.C.

After teaching in Washington D.C. she worked with a very special delinquency-prevention program for twenty-eight years.

She was an elected advisory neighborhood commissioner with a single membership district of 2,000 for six years.

She retired from the program in 1989 and continued to be an advocate for youths.

Then she moved back to Chapel Hill in 1991 and became very active in youth programs like Head Start, Hargraves Center, Northside Gym and First Baptist Church Youth Christian Fellowship.

She led the Northside com-

munity-watch program for many, many years.

Survivors include two daughters, Joni L. Jones-Callahan and Carol B. Jones-Ingraham (Edward); three grandchildren, Ashley Christina, Cardin Pompey and Denzel Edward; one sister, Martha N. Atwater Barbee; one brother, Thomas "Bubba" Norwood; sisters-in-law Barbara Jones Campbell and Lillie Mae Allen; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on Friday February 8 at First Baptist Church. Burial was on Monday, February 11 at Salisbury National Cemetery. Arrangements by Jones Funeral Home in Chapel Hill.

Wiley H. Shearin

Wiley H. Shearin, Ed.D., 70, of Chapel Hill died sadly on February 5, 2008, at UNC Hospitals.

Born in Rocky Mount on May 23, 1937, he served in the U.S. Army in Germany, received a Bachelor of Science degree, Master's degree, and Doctorate in Education at UNC-Chapel Hill.

He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Shearin Hounshell, R.N. and her husband David W. Hounshell, of Raleigh; daughter Dr. Mary D. Shearin, of Greensboro; former wife, the author Erika V. Shearin Karres, Ed.D. and her husband Andrew M.. Karres, of Chapel Hill; granddaughters Katherine Elizabeth Hounshell and Sarah Emily Hounshell, of Raleigh; and a host of other relatives in the U.S. and Germany.

He was a long-time award-winning principal in the Orange County Schools and a strong leader in the desegregation process of that system. He was devoted to his students and teachers, many of whom learned "the meaning of excellence" from

him for the first time, according to them, and has been called an education visionary.

He was a beloved father and grandfather and was cherished by his many friends. After his retirement he traveled extensively, kept current on cultural and political events, and became an even more loyal Tar Heel fan.

Funeral services were held at Walker's Funeral Home in Chapel Hill on Saturday, Feb. 9, with the Rev. Jim Harry officiating. Burial followed at Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery, and a celebration of his life and achievements was held later that day at A Southern Season.

The family requests that memorials be made to Central Elementary School Media Center, 154 Hayes Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Walker's Funeral Home of Chapel Hill is assisting the Shearin family.

Dorothy Phelps Vroome

Dorothy Phelps Vroome, 86, died Friday, January 25, 2008 at Springmoor Retirement Community. She was born on July 27, 1921 in Riverdale, NY to Albert and Mildred Phelps.

Mrs. Vroome is survived by three children: sons, Roy Vroome of Charlotte and Richard P. Vroome of Snowflake, AZ; daughter, Virginia Stelle of Raleigh; seven grandchildren, Ann Paul of Bedford Hills, NY, James Beattie of San Jose CA, Elizabeth Benson of Raleigh, NC, Darren Stelle of Leesburg, VA, Caroline Setliff of Raleigh NC, Kevin Vroome of Raleigh NC, Christine Hartsfield of Wilmington, NC; and twelve great grandchildren. She was predeceased by daughter, Joan Vroome Beattie in 1981, grandson, William Beattie in 2001, and husband, Ray in 2004 after 60 years of marriage.

Elections Briefs

Halkiotis running for school board

Steven Halkiotis, a retired assistant superintendent with Orange County Schools who served five terms on the Orange County Board of Commissioners, has filed to run for Orange County Schools Board of Education.

Halkiotis, who opted not to run for re-election as commissioner in 2006, recently retired from Orange County Schools, where he was the district's director of auxiliary services.

Clinton, Obama ask Edwards' support

Word filtered out this week that last Thursday Sen. Hillary Clinton paid an unannounced visit to John Edwards' Orange County home for a talk about the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Edwards, who dropped out of the running in early February, won four delegates in New Hampshire, 14 in Iowa and eight in South Carolina. A meeting with Sen. Barack Obama, who swept this week's Potomac primaries, is being scheduled.

Carey leads Kinnaird in fundraising

Fundraising numbers reported by state Senate candidates Moses Carey and Ellie Kinnaird show Carey took in \$31,180 in the last seven months of 2007 and reported \$28,204 cash on hand. Kinnaird, the incumbent, raised \$6,065 and reported \$19,293 in cash on hand at the end of the reporting cycle. Kinnaird had considered retiring this year but announced in late October she would seek re-election.

Pittsboro voting to start

Absentee ballots will be available starting Monday in the new election between Pittsboro town commissioner candidates Hugh Harrington and Michele Berger. Harrington's six-vote victory last fall was challenged by Berger, and after it was revealed that at least 17 residents received the wrong ballots the county and state boards of election called for a new election. Election Day has been set for March 18, preceded by a month-long absentee voting cycle. Any voter registered in the town of Pittsboro at the time of the new election is eligible to vote in the special election. Following is the special election schedule: Feb. 18, Mail-In Absentee Ballots available; Feb. 22, Voter Registration Deadline; Feb. 26, Absentee Meeting; Feb. 28, One-Stop Voting Begins; March 15, One-Stop Voting ends (GS 163-227.2); March 17, Absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 pm; March 18, Election Day

Voting machine demo

The Chatham County Board of Elections will host a Voting Equipment Forum Feb. 27 at the Agricultural Auditorium in Pittsboro from 6 to 9 p.m. Any interested person is invited to attend. This forum provides an opportunity to view the voting equipment that is in use in Chatham County and to voice your opinions or concerns that relate to voting equipment.

The Eleventh Annual
Community
Dinner
Sunday, March 2 ♦ 1 PM

McDougle School Cafetorium ♦ 900 Old Fayetteville Rd. in Carrboro

Celebrating Orange County's Diverse Community
Sit down with a stranger, leave with a friend

Lots of great entertainment
and plenty of scrumptious food!
(Food donated from several (lots!) of local restaurants)

OUR 2008 PERFORMERS (so far):

- ♦ Ron Stutts / WCHL, Emcee ♦
- ♦ Skeedaddle ♦
- ♦ Orange County Jammers ♦
- ♦ Senior Cheer Leading Group ♦
- ♦ The TROSA Band ♦
- ♦ The Suzuki Academy of North Carolina ♦
- ♦ The Peruvian-American Association ♦
- ♦ of North Carolina Dance Group

TICKETS \$8 FOR ADULTS AND \$3 FOR KIDS

Tickets available at the Carrboro Branch Library at McDougle School, The Ink Spot in Carrboro, The Chapel Hill Museum Shop, The Chapel Hill News, Mama Dip's Kitchen, The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, Market Street Books at Southern Village, Townsend, Bertram and Company at Carr Mill in Carrboro, Bon's Homecookin' & The Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce at 102 N.Churton Street

A large number of the tickets for the dinner are distributed to people who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend. You can feed a family of four with a \$22 donation!

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY - Because there is limited seating for this event, tickets are only available in advance, so be sure to get your tickets before we sell out.

The Community Dinner is not a fundraising event, but rather an awareness raising event, designed to bring people from all walks of life together for an afternoon of great food and entertainment.

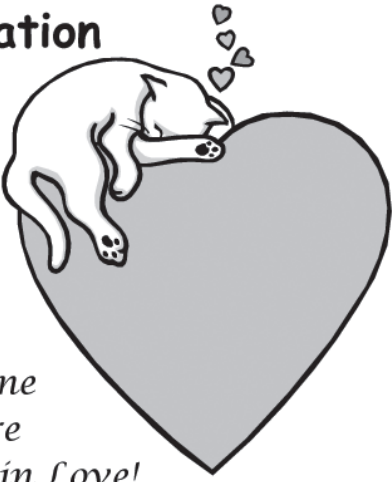
For more information visit www.communitydinner.org

Fall in Love
with a New Pet at
Orange County's Animal Shelter



Valentine's Day Celebration
Animal Shelter
Thursday, February 14th
11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Valentine's Adoption Celebration
Patterson Place PetSmart
Witherspoon Drive
Saturday, February 16th
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Please join us this Valentine's for one
of our Adoption Celebrations, where
you can Meet our Singles and Fall in Love!