

## Madeira Beach

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MADEIRA BEACH - Voters in this beach community will go to the polls on Super Tuesday to select a new mayor and two commissioners and to decide how much those officials will be paid.

J. Kenneth Jacobsen, mayor for eight years and four-year city commissioner before that, has decided not to seek re-election. Hugh Lamont and Miller Newton are competing for the post.

Incumbent commissioner Arnold Alloway is being challenged by Paul T. O'Connor for the District 1 commission seat. In District 2, R. Alan DiSesa is taking on incumbent commissioner Warren Sturgis.

All of the candidates said they are concerned about recreation-area lighting and beach beautification, leaving the purchase of the Gulf Beach-Seminole Board of Realtors property as the hottest political issue in this election.

Amid questions and complaints by city residents, the City Commission last year approved the purchase of the property in John's Pass Village. That controversial \$650,000 land buy has led Lamont, O'Connor and DiSesa to try for public office, all three have said.

Lamont helped fight the land purchase as a member of the Madeira Beach Taxpayers Association. Although only the property owners in the shopping village on Gulf Boulevard will have to pay for the purchase, the city will suffer most because it is the third-largest property owner at John's Pass, Lamont said. "The city itself has been assessed over \$120,000 for it," money that could be better spent elsewhere, he said.

If Lamont is elected, he wants to limit to \$100,000 the amount of non-emergency spending without a public hearing. And Lamont said he also wants to restore the citizens' forum, placing it at the beginning of commission meetings. This is Lamont's first try at political office.

His opponent, Miller Newton, said he decided to seek the office of mayor out of a sense of civic duty, not political reasons. Newton is the chairman of the city's board of adjustment and that has been his only involvement in city operations during the six years he has lived in Madeira Beach.

Newton sees the mayor's role as a policy-making position, and says city management should be in the hands of professionals hired to those positions.

Newton is clinical director of a nationwide children's treatment program, called Kid Centers of America. He is the former head of the Straight drug rehabilitation program, which he joined in 1980. He rose to national clinical director before resigning in 1983.

The same land-buy issue also has led Paul T. O'Connor to challenge District 1 incumbent Commissioner Arnold Alloway. The purchase showed a "total disregard" for taxpayers, O'Connor said.

But Alloway, who voted for the purchase, said he doesn't understand all the fuss - the taxpayers won't be responsible for the purchase, just the John's Pass property owners. "The city is gaining a \$650,000 property, and they're paying nothing for it," he said.

O'Connor, who is employed as the manager of a building products company, said his priorities would be the city's water pollution problem, establishing a police dispatching system and stricter law enforcement to cut drug trafficking in the city or the public library. If he is re-elected, Alloway said he wants to establish a recycling program to reduce city dumping fees and expand the city's police facilities.

Alan DiSesa says he is challenging incumbent District 2 Commissioner Warren Sturgis out of a sense of duty. "I really don't want to be a politician. I am a citizen; I am a taxpayer," he said.

The realty property purchase also upset DiSesa, who said it "bordered right on the verge of being a smelly deal." DiSesa claims that two of the commissioners who voted for the deal had a conflict of interest.

DiSesa said he would work for the entire city, rather than concentrating on John's Pass. He also would like to take a closer look at the impact on city services caused by beach development and a growing population.

Sturgis, elected to the commission in 1986, said he has helped maintain the city's low tax rate, improved maintenance at the municipal marina and worked with the state Department of Transportation on safety measures for the 150th Avenue bridge.

Voters also will be asked if they wish to change the method of payment for elected city leaders. Commissioners now are paid \$200 and the mayor \$300 per month. But a question on the ballot asks if elected city officials should be paid by the number of meetings or official events they attend - to a maximum of \$5,616 yearly for commissioners and \$7,956 for the mayor. If the method is approved, it will require a change in the city charter.

## Profiles

### Mayor:

Hugh Lamont, 59, is a former member of the city planning commission and is making his first try at elected office. He immigrated to the United States 30 years ago from his native Scotland and has lived in the city for eight years. Lamont, divorced and the father of two children, lives at 441 129th Ave.

Dr. Miller Newton, 49, is an ordained Methodist minister and a former associate professor of education at the University of South Florida. He has served as Clerk of the Circuit Court in Pasco County and also was a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976. Newton joined the Straight drug rehabilitation program in 1980, but resigned in 1983. He lives at 13145 Third St.

### District 1:

Arnold Alloway, 44, moved in 1979 to Madeira Beach from Erie, Pa., where he was a salesman. He owns and operates the Tarpon Motel. He was a volunteer firefighter for six years. Alloway has served three consecutive terms as a city commissioner. Alloway, married and the father of one daughter, lives at 13015 Gulf Blvd.

Paul T. O'Connor, 59, is the manger of a building products store and the owner of a window company. He formerly was a resident of Toledo, Ohio, where he graduated from Central Catholic High School and the University of Toledo. He has lived in Florida for 12 years. O'Connor served in the Marine Corps and later worked as a police officer in Toledo. He is a member of the Madeira Beach Taxpayers Association. Married and the father of five children, he lives at 315 Boca Ciega Drive.

### District 2:

Warren Sturgis, 58, graduated from St. Petersburg High School. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 36 years before retiring in 1985, and now operates a charter fishing boat. Sturgis, married and the father of two children, lives at 576 Lillian Drive.

R. Alan DiSesa is manager of contracts with E-Systems Inc. The former Connecticut resident attended the University of Connecticut and took graduate courses at Fordham University and the College of William and Mary. He has been involved with the Madeira Beach Taxpayers Association. DiSesa is divorced and has three children, one of whom lives with him at 525 Crystal Drive.

## Election facts

**THE JOB:** City commissioners are elected at-large for two-year terms, but must live in the district they represent. The mayor is elected at-large to a two-year term. City commissioners currently are paid \$200 per month and the mayor is paid \$300 per month, but a charter question on the March 8 ballot may change their compensation.

**WHO CAN VOTE:** The election is open to all registered voters in the city.

**WHERE THEY CAN VOTE:** City Hall, 300 Municipal Drive.

**WHOM TO CALL FOR INFORMATION:** City Clerk's office, 391-9951.

- **Caption:** BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, (6)Hugh Lamont; Miller Newton; Arnold Alloway; Paul T. O'Connor; Warren Sturgis; R. Alan DiSesa

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