

Unfinished business prompts Vaughn bid

H.G. Vaughn

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By SHAWN HOPKINS - Bulletin Staff Writer

Ridgeway District Supervisor H.G. Vaughn announced Friday that he has filed the required paperwork to run for office in the Nov. 6 general election.

Vaughn, 59, will face Larry Reynolds, 55, who announced his candidacy for the seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors last week.

Vaughn said he decided to run again because he believes there are important things “in the works” with the board, such as options for land for new industrial parks, that need to continue.

“I want to be a part of that,” he said.

Vaughn said that when he lost by 10 votes in the 1999 election after his first term on the board, he felt that some of the things he had worked on then had fallen by the wayside.

“We’ve got things back on track and I want to see that continue,” he said.

The important thing to focus on is attracting “diversified, higher paying jobs,” he said.

The county has an option on a piece of land to expand the Patriot Centre industrial park and another piece of land near the North Carolina border that Vaughn believes will help promote job creation. He said the supervisors also want the city to participate in these potential parks with revenue sharing agreements for the lots.

Other things that will help bring the jobs to the community include the New College Institute, the new Virginia Museum of Natural History facility and a focus on making the community an attractive, clean place to live, he said.

Vaughn said the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. has suffered some setbacks, but it seems to be on track under the leadership of Mark Heath, president and chief executive officer.

“I think it’s time now that we start seeing results from our efforts,” he said.

He added that between Martinsville, Henry County and The Harvest Foundation, those efforts amount to an investment of more than \$2 million a year.

Vaughn said he expects to see results, but if that does not happen, a community summit should be held to discuss what is going wrong.

Other things he said the supervisors have been pushing for that are important are air-conditioning all the schools, the completion of Drewry Mason Elementary School in his district and completion of U.S. 58 and Interstate 73 road projects.

Vaughn said he believes it is important to limit the controversy caused by discussion of changing the route of I-73, because that uncertainty may cause the Commonwealth Transportation Board to be less likely to push ahead with designing it.

“Anything like that is going to stall the project,” he said. “We certainly don’t want to start all over again on this.”

He touted his record of working toward public safety, saying that since he has been supervisor he lobbied for a traffic light near Sheetz in Ridgeway and expects to see a new one soon at the intersection of U.S. 220 and Virginia 687 toward Eden, a dangerous intersection.

Vaughn said he has met his opponent only once at a board of supervisors meeting.

“I’m looking forward to debating him,” he said, adding that Reynolds has expressed dissatisfaction with the way the district is being represented.

“I would like to find out what his dissatisfaction and frustration is and what he feels should be done,” Vaughn said.

Vaughn is a licensed real estate broker who works with his wife, Brenda, at their real estate firm, Vaughn Real Estate.

He is a graduate of Fieldale High School and worked in engineering and management positions in the furniture industry for 30 years.

He has two children, Bryan Vaughn, 33, who works for Spring Industries, and Julie Franklin, 37, a technology trainer for the Henrico County School System, and several grandchildren.