



Brunswick Council Election Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Candidate Information Page

In order to help voters make an informed decision, the Greater Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce is publishing these information pages about all the candidates.



Andy St. John For Council

Bio: I am 57, and I have been a resident of Brunswick for 13 years now. I am a husband, father, step-father, grandfather, and adoptive parent. I have been employed as a senior analyst and programmer by a federal contracting firm since 1988, with occasional sidelines in home improvement, and antique dealing.

1.) *We have been working on downtown revitalization for over thirty years. Some progress has been made. What steps would you suggest to continue or improve the process?*

Answer: The Railroad Square development is a huge project, but an imperfect one, and the city will face some challenges incorporating it into a functioning downtown. The most exciting development is the availability of state grant funding to buy vacant properties and re-sell them to buyers who will repair and occupy them. We have used this for two buildings downtown already, and hope to do more soon. This program is an excellent way for the city to invest in itself, and thus encourage others to invest in it as well.

2.) *What is your opinion of our local police department? Do you have any suggestions for improvement?*

Answer: Brunswick has an excellent police department, and we are all fortunate that Milt Frech left us with a such fine organization. The city has to continue to support BPD by making sure it has a competitive compensation package to maintain retention, and to insure we have access to services like crisis counseling that can help prevent the necessity of arrests.

3.) *Do you feel that Galyn Manor and Brunswick Crossing are fully neighborhoods of greater Brunswick? If not, how would you suggest accomplishing that?*

Answer: If New York Hill, Concord Drive, Brickyard Hill, Wenner Park, and others are neighborhoods, then Galyn Manor and Brunswick Crossing certainly are. Both areas are well represented on the council and in the organizations I am involved with. To the extent that we could come together more, I think the most effective way to encourage that is by having a healthy and vibrant downtown commercial area, where people can gather together.

4.) *What other question or topic do you think should have the Mayor and Council's attention in the next two years?*

Answer: Infrastructure is the top concern of any municipality. Water, sewer, roads, and sidewalks are all critical to any other activity, and also quite expensive if you want them built to last. I would add parks and a recreation center to the list. We should also consider public transport, because as we continue to grow we will have a distributed population, but with stores and services concentrated in specific parts of town.

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