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Bronson candidates qualify;

Town scores \$375,000

Youth sports open for registration

By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 9, 2017 at 2:27 p.m.

BRONSON -- Two of three seats up for election are being filled by the incumbents and three candidates are seeking to fill the seat to be vacated by Bronson Town Councilman Aaron Edmondson.

Bronson Mayor Bruce Greenlee and Vice Mayor Beatrice Roberts retained Seat 5 and Seat 3 respectively, Bronson Town Clerk Pamela Whitehead said during the Monday night (Aug. 7) meeting.

Edith Brown, Robert Partin and Virginia Phillips are the three candidates who qualified the previous week to accept the responsibilities of being a member of Bronson Town Council in Seat 1, from whence Edmondson is departing.

The election is scheduled to be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 12. Voters are slated to cast ballots in the Dogan Cobb Municipal Building on Hathaway Street (U.S. Alt. 27).

OTHER NEWS

There was other Town Council activity Monday night in the Cobb building.

Whitehead announced the awarding of a \$375,000 Small County Outreach Program Grant from the Florida Department of Transportation for paving Picnic Street and for placing sidewalks next to that street, which leads to James H. Cobb Park (Bronson Sports Complex).

Mayor Greenlee said he is pleased to hear about this improvement.

Clerk Whitehead announced additionally that Phase III of a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to improve recreational facilities at the James H. Cobb Park (Bronson Sports Complex) has begun.

Those improvements will enhance the park with the construction of a volleyball court, improve a bathroom to make it handicap accessible, and add a playground by the baseball field.

ARCHERY

Barbara Bass of The Deer Camp of Chiefland is trying to repurpose the former Flamingo Seafood outlet on State Road 24 (Thrasher Drive) for archery.

Timothy Hamilton spoke during the time on the agenda for public participation. He said he wants to have an event on Sept. 9, starting at noon, where handicapped people would meet socially before starting their sporting event of archery.

He spoke about setting up 3-D archery targets, which are different than the traditional round targets. These are targets that resemble deer and the like.

His initial thought is to have this get-together monthly.

With his initial call for membership, Hamilton said there may be 30 people or there may be 100 people.

Mayor Greenlee said he is not opposed to the proposal. He presumes this is a permitted use for the property that is zoned for commercial use.

Hamilton said there is a wooded area that provides for arrows going beyond targets, and where there is not woods, safety workers will have backdrops to stop the overshot arrows.

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The mayor said that he does not know if this should be called a special event, and whether the Levy County Sheriff's Office should be involved for traffic control.

Vice Mayor Roberts asked about training.

Hamilton said Bass will be introducing people to archery by using this form of target, rather than the traditional round, multi-colored targets.

Vice Mayor Roberts had Bass clarify that this project is set for the four-acre site of the former Flamingo Seafood store. When Hamilton filled in a form he listed Hathaway Avenue (U.S. Alt. 27) rather than Thrasher Drive.

Hamilton said he got Hathaway off of the Internet.

One aspect where Bass seemed confused was her presumption that Levy County 4-H would no longer have an archery program or a shooting sports program.

Bass said 4-H competition would be at the former Flamingo Seafood spot, because Levy County 4-H no longer has archery.

"We have kids around here that do a lot of 4-H competitive archery," Bass said. "So that's one of the things we're trying to do out there (on her four acres next to SR 24), is to get 3-D archery started with both children, adults, teenagers, whoever wants to shoot."

Bass said she is just trying to keep people from having to drive all the way to Newberry to shoot arrows.

Hamilton said "the old 4-H" always had shooting at the ag center in the summers.

Hamilton, like Bass, incorrectly presumed that Levy County 4-H has shut down its archery and other shooting sports program.

With the retirement of 4-H Program Assistant Brenda Heberling, there are changes to the shooting sports aspect of Levy County 4-H.

And the summer day camps this year were different than they have been, too, under the previous direction of now-retired 4-H Agent Albert Fuller.

Levy County 4-H Agent Genevieve Mendoza said on Wednesday (Aug. 9) that she plans to offer archery and other shooting sports as part of the Levy County 4-H program.

How quickly this comes to fruition depends on volunteers' involvement, she said. There is a person with an extensive shooting sports background who is a friend of Levy County Extension Director Ed Jennings, Mendoza said.

Mendoza is hoping this gentleman completes the requirements to be vetted to lead the new version of the program. If he does become a voluntary leader, it will be an excellent asset for the county's 4-H program, she said.

Archery and other shooting sports for Levy County 4-H may look a little different than what existed before, Mendoza said, but this will not depend on one person. The new program will involve a number of volunteers, she said.

The county has the equipment, she added.

Next week, Mendoza will be participating in training related to this revised Levy County 4-H shooting sports program.

As for Hamilton's request to use the property for a mix of a social club for handicapped sportsmen and for archery events, Bronson Town Attorney Steven Warm said the Town Council will need a zoning report.

"Second," Warm said Monday night, "before you (Town Council) say 'Yes,' 'No' or 'Maybe,' I will need to do a little more research to know exactly what it is (that Hamilton is requesting of the Town Council)."

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Attorney Warm restated that first the town must review its zoning ordinances, and then it needs to look at applicable state law in relation to archery ranges and this type of activity.

Hamilton and Bass made reference to Easton Newberry Sports Complex, and people having to drive there rather than shooting arrows at a range in Levy County.

Hamilton said “Time is of the essence” because his plan is for a Sept. 9 starting date of his social-sports club for handicapped people. The one-legged man stood on crutches at the podium as he made his request to the Town Council.

Bass made her comments from her chair in the audience.

She has been through a process with the Town Council before in regard to zoning questions, when a fudge-making outfit had used the former Flamingo Seafood store. The fudge-makers later moved to be next to a barber shop on Hathaway Avenue.

YOUTH SPORTS

Bronson Parks and Recreation Director Curtis Stacy said children can register at James H. Cobb Park this Saturday (Aug. 12) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the following sports:

Cheerleading age 5-12 (full – can’t take any more)

Soccer age 5-11 (\$55)

Soccer Pups age 3-4 (\$40)

Contact Football age 7-12 (\$90)

Flag Football age 5-10 (\$55)

Girls Volleyball age 7-11 (\$55)

The absolute deadline for Bronson youth sports fall registration is Aug. 14. For more information, call **352-486-2354**.