

Mountain Musings

Asheville Civitan Club, Inc.
PO Box 1755, Asheville, NC 28802

Asheville Civitan Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 203, Asheville, NC 28802



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Asheville Civitan Club, Inc.
Builders of Good Citizenship
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Mountain Musings is the
official weekly bulletin of
The Asheville Civitan Club
and
The Asheville Civitan
Foundation

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Officers and Directors, 2001-2002

Officers:
President - Gary Hannah
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William M. Pomeroy, Jr.

Past Lt. Governors NC District West:
Robert Gray, 1998-1999
Ralph Scarritt, 1995-1996
Fred Rutledge, 1994-1995

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www.ashevillecivitan.org

TUESDAY , OCTOBER 30, 2001

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 12:00 NOON

“KAYAKING THROUGH PATAGONIA”

Dr. ROBERT DYE, Coordinator of the *Voice of the Rivers Program* at **Brevard College**, will present a program of slides and commentary based upon the **College's** recent trip through the Patagonia region of South America.

ROBERT HULETT will give the invocation.

WILLIAM GRIFFIN, III, will be the greeter.

MENU FOR TUESDAY: Rosemary Chicken * Salad * Bread * Fruit Bowl
Assorted Desserts * Coffee * Tea * Milk

“ELECTION CENTRAL” SIGN-UPS

JOHN GILE, Chair of the “**Election Central**” staffing on November 6, had sign-up sheets for

the various shifts at the telephones and the ballot checking tables. Although not as many hands are needed for this “off-off” year election, there are still many spots to be filled. So get on board!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President CARLA SUTHERLAND announced that **AHMAD AMARA** has accepted the chairmanship of the **Scholarship Committee**.

ALBERT “TUCK” GUDGER and **DONALD FOX** will be taking reservations, starting at the next meeting, for the annual Christmas Party to be held this year on Friday, December 7, 2001. The event will again be at the Asheville Country Club.

THE CANDIDATES SPEAK

BARBARA WHITAKER hosted the program which was to feature the two mayoral candidates in the city of Asheville. However, **BRIAN PETERSON** had to appear in court at the last minute and could not attend. **CHARLES WORLEY** was in attendance and, fortunately, so were two candidates for city council, **JOE DUNN** and **CARL MUMPOWER**, who were asked to fill in. All three were asked to respond to three issues: 1. The future of the Civic Center; 2. City-County relations; 3. Increasing the tax base.

CHARLES WORLEY, as a featured speaker, was allotted the longest speaking time and began by trying to dispel the notion that he is strictly a “pro-business” candidate. He feels that this should not be a neighborhood versus business contest, but that both should work together for the good of the city. Everyone lives in a neighborhood, he said, all are concerned about paying bills, about affordable taxes, about streets and sidewalks, and about parks and recreation. But all of these concerns are tied to attracting business and good paying jobs. A recent survey found that 60% of the land area of the city is commercial and only 40% is residential, but that 60% of city taxes are paid by residents and only 40% by commercial interests, just the reverse of what it should be. One solution suggested by **Mr. WORLEY** is to change the city ordinance regarding housing density, creating more affordable housing. Another thought about attracting new business is that, as an aftermath of the New York and Washington terrorist attacks, some businesses may well flee the larger cities and settle in a smaller, yet still cosmopolitan, city like Asheville.

In regard to city-county relations, **Mr. WORLEY** believes in closer relations not only between the city and Buncombe County, but in regional cooperation with surrounding counties as well. As the largest city in WNC, Asheville should be the leader in this endeavor. Moving to the question of what to do with the Civic Center, he backs the notion of rebuilding the arena and revamping the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium into a multi-purpose “great hall.” A new Performing Arts facility should then be built behind the auditorium, funded strictly by the arts community. He feels that building a new sports facility outside the urban core would be a mistake as it would be far too expensive. Furthermore, he contends, other cities have tried this approach and have regretted doing so. He favors a 1% tax on food and beverages in city restaurants to pay for the renovations to the Center. The city council is already committed to a new parking garage across the street and is working with the DOT to improve traffic patterns in the area.

In responding to a question, **Mr. WORLEY** favors the “Urban Village” concept which can already be seen in Biltmore Park and in the plans for the Gerber property off Hendersonville Road. This balanced concept, he feels, will mitigate the current notion, held by some, that commercial encroachment is blighting neighborhoods.

Messrs. JOE DUNN, who spoke first, and **CARL MUMPOWER** then aired their views on the three issues posed to them. **Dr. DUNN**, a retired dentist, feels that he has been unfairly labeled by the media as being strictly pro-business. He too believes in a balance between the needs of the neighborhoods and business. Regarding the Civic Center, he wants the present structure to be divided between a facility for the performing arts and an exhibition/convention center. A sports arena should be built elsewhere. How to pay for these projects is a problem and the whole issue needs more imaginative thinking in finding solutions.

CARL MUMPOWER, a psychologist, feels that the whole experience of running for office has helped him grow as a person and has convinced him that he must educate people as to what he stands for, must not pander to special interests, and must not attack people. His priorities are to focus on basic services, to be fiscally conservative, and to make day-to-day decisions pragmatically. As to the Civic Center, he supports a refurbishment of the present structure as being the most cost effective solution. All in all, **Dr. MUMPOWER** feels that basic attitudes must be changed since at the moment nobody trusts anybody. Commercial interests and neighborhoods are at odds.