

The Post Q&A feature highlights members of our community who are making a difference in their business and pe



Q: Tell us a little about your background. How long have you been here and what schools did you attend? What are your family ties here locally?

A: I moved to Fort Walton Beach in 1992 by way of the Air Force. I became a Realtor in 1992 with Jim Kiser and the Sundance Agency, who believed in giving back to the community. He also encouraged his agents to take advantage of every educational opportunity and committee within the Association of Realtors.

I followed his advice and was on five different committees and took the Leadership Development Class and graduated from this. From there I was chair of this committee and obtained my broker's license.

I have also taken several classes here at our local college and challenged myself to the Law Enforcement Standards course and passed all courses and the state test.

My family ties are my church family, many brothers and sisters in Christ and so many wonderful friends who are like my local family.

My youngest son Ryan resides here in Fort Walton also with his wife Krista and my two beautiful granddaughters. My other son Tim resides at Beal Memorial Cemetery, which also gives me a strong bond to this city and wanting to make it safer and better for all living and visiting our area. Due to a drunk driver which changed my life and my families, I vowed to continue making a positive difference wherever I could.

Q: What were the primary reasons you chose to run for City Council? Were you surprised that you won?

A: The reason I decided to run was: I interact with a lot of the public on so many various levels and when talking about certain issues, I found my views and opinions were the same as so many of my fellow citizens. I have always tried to make a positive impact with whatever comes my way. Just like when I co-founded the local chapter of MADD I wanted to continue to make positive changes on a larger scale and in other areas of the community.

Surprised? Yes and no. People were 95% positive when I was talking them prior to election day.

Q: What are the key issues you want to address? What are your long-term and short-term goals?

A: Key issues for me and the citizens include continuing to use taxes for the highest and best use. One of the biggest concerns I heard was for public safety between fire and police. Wanting to keep the police department its own entity and not losing any more of the police force or the fire department.

That is also a concern for myself as well and I want to help these two agencies stay manned and equipment necessary to do their jobs.

Another is for the "seasoned citizens" who live in our community which is about 30 percent of our population. Keeping our community family friendly for residents and tourists alike who want to enjoy our little part of paradise.

Short term goals: To learn as much as possible about all the departments within the city and learn how it all works and comes together to make the best and most informed decisions.

Q: If you could change a few major things in FWB, what would they be?

A: That the rest of the world knew how awesome Fort Walton Beach is and how family friendly this city is. To help find ways of bringing

more jobs for our citizens and the overall pride of the residents and all the work, dedication of so many people that work in each of the city departments.

I am learning how amazing they are as I meet each person in every area. From City Hall to each and every department, that the citizens learn how hard they work and how much dedication goes into each job no matter how big or small.

Q: As someone involved with real estate, what is your perspective on the local market?

A: The local real estate market has been challenging the last several years and has affected so many people. But it is starting to turn around, prices are on a slow increase, the low interest rates are helping many qualify to obtain their dream.

There are more houses that are being sold that are not short sales or foreclosed homes. We still have our share of short sales and foreclosed homes but there is definitely more homes now for sale that are not forced sales.

Days on market are also down as well, especially homes that don't take long to close.

Q: What is your opinion of the proposed Landmark project and its impact on Downtown FWB?

A: I can see two sides.

First is the additional jobs for our community and a new place for locals and tourists to enjoy. Not only would they have The Landing to attract them, they also could stroll down "Main Street" Fort Walton and enjoy our wonderful waterfront park and so many other things.

Second is people are concerned with the traffic, which is already very interesting especially during the spring and summer months. But with the engineers and the team of experts the city has, I am positive they will come up with the best solution possible to overcome the concerns.

Q: Anything else you would like to add?

A: I am just honored to be voted to this position and I urge the citizens to please express any concerns to myself or any of the council members. That is why we are here and have dedicated ourselves to be the voice of the people. We can't fix everything, but we can take what ever concern there is to those who can come up with a solution, or find one if at all possible.