

BELMONT

Rotary hosts meet and greet reception

Ted Hall

Special to The Gazette

Candidates for mayor and city council in Belmont made their pitches to a full house of voters when Belmont Rotary Club hosted a meet-the-candidates event at TechWorks Gaston on Thursday, Sept. 28.

Four candidates are running for mayor following the recent resignation for health reasons of long-time mayor Charlie Martin. The winner will serve the remaining two years of Martin's term. All of the mayoral candidates participated in the Rotary Club event, including Martha Stowe, Rick Jordan, Richard Turner and Amanda Wall. Stowe and Turner currently serve on the Belmont City Council.

Eight candidates are seeking three seats on the Belmont City Council, and seven participated in the Rotary event. They are: George (Buck) Altice, Peg Argent, Jim Hefferan, Cynthia Hegler, Charlie Hill, Cory Miller and Jason P. Rumpfelt. Council candidate Barry Flynn did not attend. Jim Hefferan and Jason Rumpfelt currently serve on the council. Rumpfelt was appointed in July to fill the unexpired term of Marc Seelinger, who was named interim mayor after Charlie Martin's resignation.

The candidate meet and greet opened with a reception during which voters had an opportunity to talk individually with candidates. The second segment of the program featured three-minute presentations by each candidate, and the evening concluded with more time for voters to engage with candidates asking follow-up questions or making comments.

Belmont Rotary Club President Thomas Hunter III was host for the event and introduced the candidates. Voters will have another opportunity

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Rotary

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to hear from Belmont candidates at forum on October 19, 5 - 9 p.m., at The Pointe Church, 6700 W. Wilkinson Boulevard in Belmont.

Election dates to remember:

Oct. 13, (5 p.m.) - Last day to register to vote in the 2023 municipal election.

Oct. 19 - One-stop absentee (early voting) begins.

Oct. 31, (5 p.m.) - Last day to apply

for an absentee ballot.

Nov. 4 - One-stop absentee voting (early voting) ends.

Nov. 6, (5 p.m.) - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot for voters who expect to be unable to vote on Election Day due to sickness or physical disability.

Nov. 7, (5 p.m.) - Deadline for receipt of mail-out absentee ballots.

Nov. 7 - Municipal Election Day. (Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.)

Rotary is an international service organization with 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries. "Service Above Self" is the Rotary motto. Rotarians work together to promote peace, fight disease, support education, grow local economies and protect the environment. Belmont Rotary Club, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025, meets for lunch and a program on local topics each Wednesday, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church in Belmont. Guests interested in learning



From left are Belmont mayor candidates Martha Stowe, Amanda Wall, Richard Turner and Rick Jordan; and city council candidates Jason P. Rumpfelt, Jim Hefferan, Belmont Rotary Club President and host for the event Thomas Hunter, city council candidates Peg Argent, George (Buck) Altice, Cory Miller, Charlie Hill and Cynthia Hegler. PROVIDED BY TED HALL.

BIBLE DIGEST

Monday's question: The Book of Psalms says, "The _ has said in his heart, There is no God."

Sunday's answer: "Wisdom." (Proverbs 9:10).

more about local businesses and issues and how Rotary serves the community are welcome. For more information, visit www.belmontrotaryclub.com.