

ELECTION 2017

WEST WARD ALDERMAN

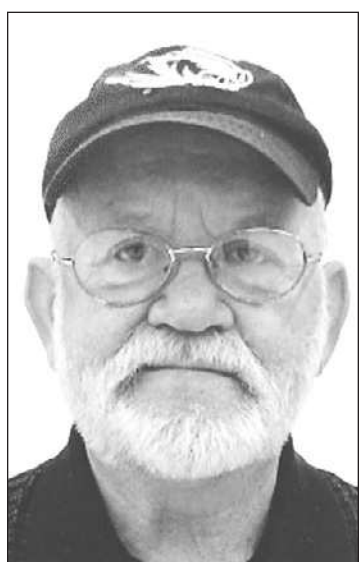
EAST WARD ALDERMAN

Provide information about yourself, including background and biographical data:

I was born and raised in Dent County. I have lived in Dent County or Salem all but two years of my life. I am a member of Second Baptist Church where I am a trustee. I am retired from Royal Oak Charcoal. I was a lead man in the shipping department for five years. I also was a contract mail carrier for four years. I attended and graduated from Salem High School. In the past I was in the Salem Lions and coached and umpired little league games.

Why should you be elected? Be specific.

I have chosen to live in Salem therefore I have a large interest in Salem. Salem is a good place to live and raise a family. I have the time and am willing to use it to be a good alderman. I will attend all meetings. I feel like I can work with all the other aldermen to make Salem even better.



GENE BAKER

What should be done to attract new businesses and expand existing businesses in Dent County and Salem, creating more and better jobs?

We should strive to keep utility cost as low as we possibly can. We should work with the Chamber of Commerce and the county commissioners, and hold regular meetings to seek input.

What would you as an alderman do to improve

the city's image among visitors and prospective residents and businesses? Please give specific recommendations.

First of all aldermen, need to be involved regarding cleanup of the city. I would be willing to work with the economic development director to help market the area. We need to point out to prospective residents and businesses that Salem, compared to most areas, has a lower tax.

Salem has the position of economic development director in the budget. When a person is hired, what are three specific priorities the director and aldermen should pursue?

Again to keep utility cost as low as we can, higher utility cost is a major factor in the cost of any business. I have stated before, the aldermen should work to help market this area in whatever way we can. We should be active in funneling new business in Salem. You never know unless you try.

Provide information about yourself, including background and biographical data:

Hello citizens of Salem. I am Jerry (Jay) Gibbs Jr. and I am currently running for the East Ward Alderman position which is held by Mr. Haydn (Buzz) Powell. I am the grandson of the late Dorman L. Gibbs (former Dent County Sheriff) and the late Betty J. Gibbs, the late Eldon E. Wood and the late Cleone E. Coad. I am the son of the late Jerry J. Gibbs Sr. and the late Linda K. Gibbs. I have one son, Jonathan M. Gibbs, who is 19-years-old. I was born and raised right here in Dent County. I have an Associate Degree in General Studies. This is my hometown and it will always be my home because this is where my heart is.

Why should you be elected? Be specific.

I feel that I should be elected your East Ward City Alderman because I want to help make Salem a better place to live and grow our families. I want our citizens to be proud to call Salem their home and not just a little run down town full of drugs and full of crime. It seems everywhere you look there are drugs in our city streets and with your support, we can help clean up our city and help take it back. I will listen to what our citizens have to say and help fix our problems whether they are big or small. Together we can make Salem beautiful again.

What should be done to attract new businesses and expand existing busi-

Provide information about yourself, including background and biographical data:

Dr. Haydn Powell, Jr. is the son of Dr. Haydn and Beverly Powell. He was born and raised in Salem attending R-I and the R-80 school systems. He graduated from Palmer College in 1973. Dr. Powell is presently serving his third term as East Ward Alderman for the city of Salem and has served as president of the board for the last three years. He presently serves on the Finance Committee, the Airport Board and the Park Board. Dr. Powell also serves on the Board of Directors of the Academy of Missouri Chiropractors, including the treasurer position. He was also a charter board member for Healthy Dent County, which he still holds. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Salem.

Why should you be elected? Be specific.

During three terms as East Ward Alderman we have had many positive changes in the city's financial standing. We have received an excellent audit every year. In my first term we had a restructure of the city administration and established a city administrator. We have balanced the budget



Jerry "Jay" Gibbs Jr.

ness in Dent County and Salem, creating more and better jobs?

I believe that in order to attract new businesses to Salem and Dent County, we must first of all want other businesses to come here and we must provide companies with people who are willing to work and not just show up for a paycheck. I feel that we should offer low tax breaks to new businesses or a break on their electric if they are within the city limits. I also feel that we should help and take care of the businesses that are already established here in our community to see how we can help them expand such as US Foods, the Doe Run Company, Royal Oak, and the rest of the businesses here in our community. We must support them by buying locally.

What would you as an alderman do to improve the city's image among visitors and prospective residents and businesses? Please give specific rec-

ommendations.

I feel that in order to improve the City's image among visitors and prospective residents and businesses, the City Aldermen should be addressing derelict buildings and properties by stressing the city ordinances already in place and seeing that they are carried out. If the property owner is an elderly person or someone who is on a fixed income then I feel that aldermen should offer some resources such as names of local heating and cooling companies and local contractors to help repair or rebuild a dilapidated building(s) to the property owner. I would also work closely with the members of the Chamber of Commerce and the GRO Community to help beautify the community. I feel that if we all pitch in and help our fellow neighbors we can all help make our city a better place for everyone.

Salem has the position of economic development director in the budget. When a person is hired, what are three specific priorities the director and aldermen should pursue?

My top priority would be working closely with the director on projects, we need to stand together and show support for this position. Second, the director should be involved with GRO Community efforts in the areas of downtown streetscape, community engagement, marketing and succession planning along with the aldermen's help. And lastly, I think working together with Jefferson City to help bring in other jobs for our community.

next several months.

What would you as an alderman do to improve the city's image among visitors and prospective residents and businesses? Please give specific recommendations.

Legislating how citizens care for their properties is as difficult as legislating morality. I think the process of enforcing the codes of the city need to be streamlined to make the process and code enforcement less difficult.

Salem has the position of economic development director in the budget. When a person is hired, what are three specific priorities the director and aldermen should pursue?

With the new federal administration in place we hope to see business and manufacturers relocate back to the state. I feel the economic development director will play a huge part in seeing a growth in manufacturing facilities and job development. I think we need to encourage shoppers supporting local businesses. It is so discouraging to see so many talented individuals have to leave the city as a result of the lack of well-paying jobs.

Alderman Candidate Chad Heithold did not participate in the questionnaire.

Election Day is Tuesday, April 4

DENT COUNTY LIFE

VFW Post 6280 featured in National VFW Magazine

VFW Post 6280 was featured in the March edition of the VFW Magazine. The article, written by VFW magazine's Kari Williams discussed the post co-sponsoring a Sky Dive for Epilepsy, where post Commander Eric Surles jumped at 10,000 feet with Sky Granny last October to raise awareness and funds for the Epilepsy Foundation.

"Surles said that while military jumps are typically performed at night at a lower altitude, skydiving at 10,000 feet offered a chance to 'really enjoy the scenery,'" said Kari Williams in her article. "The jump raised about \$3,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation through online and check donations."

The event, held more than 150 miles from the post at

Ozark Skydiving Center in Miller, was "more of a personal interest" to Surles because his son has epilepsy. However, Surles said the cause dovetailed into the national Day to Change Direction campaign for mental wellness. On Oct. 8, VFW posts around the country held community service events, and speakers discussed the five signs of mental and emotional wellness.

"This one [event] was a way that we could actually do something that was kind of out there and over the top where we were doing something that normally people wouldn't do," said Surles in the article.

Post 6280 also held a separate event for epilepsy awareness at The Centre in Rolla. Attendees partici-

pated in athletic events. VFW also had a booth at the event.

The article also included facts on Veterans suffering from Epilepsy and seizures mainly due to traumatic brain injuries. The international Anita Kaufman Foundation also took interest in the article and contacted the post commander via the VFW magazine to support the post's future veteran and epilepsy events. The article was also sent by the Anita Kaufman Foundation to the VA's Epilepsy Center of Excellence administrator who was "very pleased" with the event.

For more information, visit www.epilepsy.com or visit VFW's Post 6280's website myvfw.org/mol/post6280.

BUSINESS BRIEF



Photo by Andrew Sheeley

Denny Pogue, left, of The Bank of Salem, presents a \$1,000 donation from the Judson Young Memorial Foundation to His Place Director Ahleesha Elwood and Jessica Raulston, His Place volunteer and Bank of Salem employee.

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