

*Profiles of candidates for the Midway City Council were written by students in the University of Kentucky School of Journalism and Media. They appear in alphabetical order by candidate name.*

## **Adam Bailey says he's focused on helping local businesses**

**By Heston Bates**

City Council candidate Adam Bailey has no prior experience with elective office but says “I want to give back to the community that has given myself and my family so much.”

Bailey, 34, is director of community outreach and marketing at Trilogy Healthcare, a senior-living community in Lexington. He earned a business degree from Western Kentucky University and a Master’s in Business Administration from Midway University. He has lived in Midway for five years with his wife Amy and his two daughters, Harper and Scarlett. His father, Freeman Bailey, is director of the Woodford County Emergency Medical Service.



Bailey says one of his main goals if elected is to work more closely with local businesses to help them navigate the difficult economic climate of the pandemic.

“I think it’s critical that we support them,” he said in the candidate forum sponsored by the Midway Woman’s Club and the Midway Messenger.

Bailey said he would love to give businesses another round of relief grants “if that’s in our budget” and suggested that the city work with the Woodford County Tourism Commission “to see what we can do.”

He also suggested that instead of continuing to lower property taxes as real-estate assessments rise, some property-tax revenue could be used to help businesses: “I think we should talk to the citizens and say, we can cut this property tax, or we can keep it and use that revenue to help support our small businesses.”

Another chronic issue facing the council is speeding on city streets. The city has tried a number of measures to deter speeding, such as new speed-limit signs and placing an empty police car on South Winter Street. Asked what he believes the council should do about speeding, Bailey said “We need collaboration from the state, the police department and us to come up with a plan.”

Midway recently bought a ladder truck that doesn’t fit in the fire station, so Mayor Grayson Vandegrift raised the idea of building a new fire station at Midway Station. Bailey said, “It’s definitely something we need to explore. I would love an opportunity to talk to the fire department and see what they think.”

Another issue at Midway Station is the proposed buffer zone. The Economic Development Authority has offered the city 38 acres along the highways in return for debts it owes the city. The property would be a buffer zone separating the industrial park from the highways. Bailey said “It sounds like a fair trade and good deal, but I would need more information to say I support it one hundred percent.”

One question facing the council is whether to keep pursuing industrial development once Midway Station is fully developed. Bailey said the urban service zone should not change. “It’s important that we do create growth opportunities” he said, “but at the same time make sure we keep that small town culture that I think is Midway’s allure.”

The historic Odd Fellows Lodge at 116 W. Main St. is another issue that the council may have to handle. The building inspector has required the owner of the property to make repairs to the building by Oct. 31, and it looks unlikely that the owner will get the repairs done in time.

Asked what the city should do about the building, Bailey said “It’s difficult because it is a historic building and I think it should be protected by Midway, but at the same time it is very rundown; it’s dangerous.” He added, “I think we should reach out to the community and get their opinion and see if we can find a way to keep the building.”

# Kaye Nita Gallagher says her experience is needed at a critical time

By Heston Bates

University of Kentucky School of Journalism and Media

Running for a fourth term, City Council Member Kaye Nita Gallagher says she believes that her six years will be crucial in helping Midway navigate the unpredictability of the pandemic and other issues.

“I think it helps,” she said in an interview, “because I know what’s going on especially with Midway Station and the sewer project.”



Gallagher, 56, is a retired state employee, assistant manager at the Brown Barrel restaurant, and runs a mobile kettle corn business, 2 Ladies and a Kettle. She also works part time at Kohl’s in Frankfort. Gallagher said she believes working a variety of jobs helps her council work because the jobs provide connections to the community.

Gallagher grew up in Franklin and Scott counties, attended the University of Kentucky for a year and worked in personnel and payroll for Kentucky State Parks. She said she has lived for nearly 26 years in her grandparents’ old house in the 100 block of West Main Street.

What goals does Gallagher have if elected to another term? “I would like to see Midway Station at 100 percent occupancy.” The city has already filled the industrial lots but still needs to sell the commercial ones to complete development. “I want to see all the lots filled before my time on the council is over,” she said. In the forum, she said, “Once we get Midway Station full that’s it; we don’t need to develop anymore.”

Asked if she favors another round of pandemic relief for businesses, she said, “If it’s possible yes. If there was another round, it would be back on us, and chances are it couldn’t go to the citizens again; it would have to go to the businesses. . . . Obviously their sales aren’t as good as they’ve been in the past,” she said, “but they’re surviving.”

Due to a rise in real-estate evaluations the council has lowered property-tax rates. Asked in the Oct. 5 candidate forum if the council should continue to do that if assessments keep rising, Gallagher said “I think with Midway Station full the occupational tax is going to bring in a lot more money. If we can lower it without being a burden on the city, that would be great. If not we ought to keep them where they are at.”

Another issue facing the council is speeding. Gallagher said new speed limit signs and an empty police car in front of the doctor’s office to deter speeders seem to be only temporary solutions, because she still gets complaints about speeding. Gallagher is open to new solutions “if we can do some kind of research, if we can get some sort of study.”

The city recently bought a new ladder truck for the fire department, but it won’t fit into the fire station on Bruen Street, prompting Mayor Grayson Vandegrift to suggest building a new station at Midway Station. Asked about that, Gallagher said, “Not right now; possibly in the future, as long as we have the money, but if there is a fire at Midway University the one on Bruen Street would be able to get there faster.”

In developing Midway Station, the Woodford County Economic Development Authority has incurred debts to the city. The EDA recently proposed to retire the debt by deeding the city 38 acres of land along the highways that would be a buffer zone between the industrial park and the roads. Gallagher said “We should accept the buffer zone just because they have helped us out so much with developing Midway Station.”

The owner of the historic Odd Fellows Lodge at 116 E. Main St. has been required by the building inspector to complete repairs by Oct. 31. “I really don’t know what we would with it if we took it over,” Gallagher said. “A lot of people have talked about wanting a public restroom in downtown Midway; well, there you go.”

# Sara Hicks says she is seeking re-election to finish work on projects

By Taylor Beavers

Sara Hicks has served five two-year terms on the Midway City Council and is seeking a sixth. She says she wants to be re-elected because “There are some projects that I would really like to see us complete,” such as painting water towers and repairing cemeteries.

Hicks, 68, was born in Midway and grew up on a farm now called Lantern Hill Farm, just outside the city. She completed her master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from Azusa Pacific University, then practiced as a marriage and family therapist for 30 years in Los Angeles and Naples, Florida.

Hicks returned to Midway in 2004. She takes care of her mother, Neisje Spragens, who is 95, and gets involved in the community through groups such as the Dining for Women club, an organization that donates money to international projects that support women.

Hicks is an advocate for environmental conservation, often raising such issues at council meetings. “I think we all should be concerned about the environment,” she said. “It takes a group of people on city council to push these ideas, because otherwise they don’t get talked about.”



She said she wants to preserve the beauty and health of the community by making a sustainable agenda with ordinances and plans for the city. She says she wants to keep as many mature trees in the community as possible, and replace those that have to be cut down. Looking at options to use solar energy for heating and cooling is also one of her goals.

Hicks also voiced her support for the Black Lives Matter movement, and said she would like to see more people of color in positions on boards and policymaking groups: “It’s important that we make every effort to bring more people of color into our governance.”

When local businesses received covid-19 relief, Hicks was in support of it and believed it lifted people’s spirits and gave them hope. Hicks said in the Oct. 5 candidate forum that she would be in support of another round of relief “if we get it from the federal government.” She said that during the pandemic, the economy is too unsteady for the council to consider lowering property taxes further if real-estate assessments keep increasing.

“We need to see how we’re doing, in terms of income for the city, before we think about reducing property tax further or reducing occupational tax,” said Hicks. In an interview, she said, “I don’t foresee Midway lowering the occupational tax.”

Hicks says rezoning of land for industry has come to a stopping point. She said that until the whole of Midway Station is built out, there’s no need to rezone any property for industry.

“That’s a lot of property that’s already been allotted to growth,” she said in the forum. “I think that’s probably enough that should do us, hopefully, for another 50 years at least.”

Hicks is also in favor of accepting land for a buffer zone around Midway Station in return for forgiving debt of the Woodford County Economic Development Authority. “Any time that you can put aside land to be left as parkland,” she said, “it’s a benefit to the environment and a benefit to your community.”

As for relocating the fire station to Midway Station, partly to accommodate a recently purchased ladder truck, Hicks said she would support it because, “The firemen have said they need more space.” Hicks said she wants to be responsive to these requests but believes other projects should come first, such as repainting the water towers.

Asked what should be done about speeding in the city, Hicks said she would consider speed bumps but worries that they would slow ambulance response time. “Time is of the essence when someone is in an ambulance,” she said, adding that continued attention from the police department would help.

The owner of the property at 116 W. Main St. has until Oct. 31 to complete repairs, but if he doesn’t, Hicks says she would want to “follow our ordinances for blighted property.”

# John McDaniel seeks return to council after two years out of office

By Gage O'Dell

John McDaniel, who ran for a second term on city council in 2018 and lost, is running to get back on the council. And he is running on his own terms.

One of the most well-known figures in Midway, McDaniel did not give an interview to the Midway Messenger, did not respond to the seven questions that the Messenger emailed all council candidates, didn't answer the Chamber of Commerce questionnaire and did not participate in the candidate forum.

He did say on Facebook that he is running because "Many people have put their heart in soul into Midway, making it what is today. I want to continue to carry on the love they had for the community and continue to practice financial conservatism."

He also answered a questionnaire from Woodford Forward, which exacerbated his ongoing conflict with Mayor Grayson Vandegrift.

"The city should have a five-year comprehensive plan that includes present number of businesses that are licensed, carrying out the work that needs to be done on infrastructure, and consideration for possible grants and future purchases for the fire department," McDaniel said, the added:

"Our firefighting needs are changing as the structures being built at Midway Station require special equipment and need to be considered ahead of time, not just buying firetrucks on the spur of the moment. . . . We don't need a truck that when it is picked up ... requires two service calls to get it to Midway. If we have as much money as the mayor says, let's get good, reliable equipment. Let's plan ahead."



Vandegrift told the Messenger that that the fire department had searched for a ladder truck for two years. "They came across a perfect opportunity for us and got a really good ladder truck," he said.

He said the money for the truck was in the budget, as part of state fire aid: "We didn't specifically budget to purchase it this year, but we had the line item in the budget as essentially a contingency." He said McDaniel's statement about service calls was inaccurate. "I have no idea what he is referring to," he said.

McDaniel also said in the questionnaire that he hopes "city government can find its way clear to support the next bank that opens in Midway." The city moved all but one of its accounts from WesBanco before the bank announced that it would close its Midway branch in January. Vandegrift told the Messenger in September that he did not think the change had anything to do with the closing.

Also in the questionnaire, McDaniel said he would need to have more information regarding the Versailles northwest bypass. He is the only candidate not opposed to the project. In early 2015, the council endorsed a letter from an alliance of Woodford County groups saying the road should not be built. In 2016, it was removed as a goal in a revision of the comprehensive plan, as part of an amendment by a committee of representatives from Midway, Versailles and the county government.

McDaniel, 71, has a long record of public service, volunteer and paid. He has been active in the Midway Merchants Association, the Midway Veterans Memorial, Midway Renaissance and the Midway Museum. He was a city and county police officer for 12 years.

McDaniel was Midway's citizen of the year in 2003 and received a governor's citation for community Service in 2007 and 2013. The council recognized him in 2012 for saving the life of a woman who was choking at a local restaurant. During the last council meeting of his term, a farewell resolution honored him by calling him "Mister Midway" for his passion to the city and his civic leadership.

McDaniel lost his bid for a second term on the council after finishing third in the Democratic primary for Midway-area magistrate. He placed seventh of eight candidates, 19 votes behind sixth-place finisher Bruce Southworth. The top six vote-getters are elected.

# Logan Nance still taking stands on issues as he seeks second term

By Gage O'Dell

Logan Nance took a high profile as a freshman City Council member, winning passage of a resolution promoting resettlement of refugees and voting against annexation and industrial zoning of land next to Midway Station.

Nance is running for a second term on the same reasons he ran for his first, calling for continued infrastructure investment and exploring options for affordable housing, and a more recent issue of finding a better option for investing the city surplus.

Nance, 33, is a six-year veteran of the Army and was deployed to Afghanistan for a year. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in political science in 2014 and is a consultant for a firm that helps businesses improve employee performance,



Nance introduced a resolution in May 2019 declaring that the city of Midway supported the resettlement of refugees in Kentucky communities and called on others to join them in support. The council passed the resolution 4-2 after much debate.

Nance said he was surprised by the initial public backlash, but felt confident after a public forum on the issue that Midway's heart was in the right place. "I think that public forum was one of the best things to come out of my two-year term," he said. "I'm very proud of that resolution."

In the same month he offered the resolution, Nance was the lone member who voted against annexation of the 138-acre Freeny tract, on grounds it would ensure industrial development beyond Midway Station. Seven months later, he was the only member to vote against rezoning it from agricultural to industrial, saying "At some point we have to stop our industrial development."

Nance now says, "I'm not in favor of any more industrial development," and he is no longer a loner. During the Oct. 5 candidate forum, all 10 candidates agreed that it was time to stop rezoning land in and around Midway for industry, especially once Midway Station hits capacity.

Despite his wish to stop industrial development, Nance said he is thrilled with the results Midway has seen from it. "I'm very happy with what's going on at Midway Station," he said. "It's allowed us to do some great projects around town and has a great number of jobs," which have tripled the city's main source of revenue, the occupational tax on wages and net profits.

Nance said he is undecided on whether the council should accept the proposed deal on the buffer zone at Midway Station. "My only concern is what kind of commitment is it going to take for us to maintain it," he said. "I still need to look into it more."

Nance was in favor of reducing property-tax rates this year, to counter an increase in real-estate assessments, but said in the forum that the council should consider a more far-reaching option.

"If we've decided there's not a ton of places to build more homes," he said, "I do think we need to look at reducing or getting rid of property taxes at the city level altogether. . . . You have a lot of people in Midway on fixed income and as the population ages, that will go up more. We have to look at it and see how we can help people not get priced out of their homes."

Nance also stood out at the forum by opposing city funding of public restrooms downtown, saying "I have concerns with the logistics of building the facility and maintaining it." He said city employees are already overworked, and "Not having public restrooms does force people into the restaurants."

And he is the only council member to come out against the idea of building a new fire station at Midway Station to replace the one on Bruen Street. "I want the fire station to stay in town," he said. "Now I know the mayor said it was at the recommendation of the chief, just one brief conversation. . . . I think it's important the fire station be near residential buildings, just in case there is some sort of emergency; every second counts."

Nance said he wants to find a better option of investing the city's surplus than the current certificates of deposit, which produce "very minimal returns," he said. "I think there are great options at minimal risk that could give us more return in the end."

# Andrew Nelle has been watching the council and wants to join it

By Evan Johnson

If political novice Andrew Nelle gets elected to the City Council, it won't be unfamiliar to him. Ever since he moved from Lexington to Midway in November of 2019, he said, he has had a strong desire to get involved in the community and local government, and started proving it immediately by watching every meeting of the council, Midway Mayor Grayson Vandegrift said when Nelle filed in June.

"I love Midway and want to give back," Nelle said in an interview.

Nelle has an associate's degree from McKendree University and is pursuing an associate's degree in hotel, motel, and restaurant management at Sullivan University. He is a delivery driver for Amazon Transportation Services and a musician. He and his fiancé Jillian have three children.

Nelle said he was in the Air Force for eight years and is a part-time chaplain assistant and staff sergeant in the Kentucky Air National Guard. He is also a noncommissioned officer at the affiliated Religious Affairs, assisting military members and their families by providing religious support.



Nelle calls himself a proud Hispanic-American. His mother's family is from Puerto Rico and Guadeloupe, in the Caribbean. He says he understands the importance of cultural heritage and the need for it to be preserved, one aspect of Midway that he is very passionate about.

Nelle said he experienced some prejudice growing up in Lexington, due to his multi-ethnic background and darker skin tone, but those experiences strengthened him and gave him a clearer perspective on race and ethnicity issues in the U.S. He recalled, "There were several times where I experienced situations like that when I was really young and it definitely changed the way I see certain things."

In answering the Woodford County Chamber of Commerce questionnaire, Nelle said he comes from "a family of civil servants." His father was chair of the history department at the University of Kentucky and his mother was a longtime research librarian for the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Nelle said Midway still needs growth opportunities, but he wants to preserve the historical aspects that give Midway its identity. "Maintaining the historical heritage in this town is really important to me."

Nelle emphasized growth opportunities, not change, as the cornerstone of his campaign agenda: "I do not believe Midway needs change as much as it does growth opportunities."

In particular, he said small businesses need to have as much support as possible from the council and the community during the turbulence of the pandemic.

In regard to the proposed Midway Station deal with the EDA, Nelle said "I am in favor of any initiatives that completely benefit Midway and its citizens. If I understand this deal correctly, acquiring land for forgiveness of previous debts seems like a legitimate exchange."

Asked about what the city should do about the historic building at 116 E. Main St. if the owner fails to complete repairs by the building inspector's deadline of Oct. 31, he said the owner should get more time, given the pandemic.

"I believe a fair but stern warning should be given to the building owners," he said. "However, I also believe more time should be provided for them to complete their restoration."

Nelle said he was interested in establishing a small business near Midway, and advocated tax policy that would be advantageous to small businesses and citizens.

He said he is the type of person "not afraid to knock on some doors" and would do whatever was required of him as a council member. He said he wouldn't be opposed to frequent town-hall meetings on Zoom so that every citizen could have a chance to voice their opinions.

# Mary Raglin says she would bring diversity, unheard voices to council

By Jordan Brown

Mary Raglin, a Midway resident pretty much her entire life, is retired at 69 but looking to get more involved by trying to get elected to the City Council. This is her first race for an elective office.

“It’s time to take a step into the unknown. I feel like I’m getting married to Midway after a long relationship,” Raglin wrote in her Woodford County Chamber of Commerce election profile.

Raglin told the Messenger she wants to be a voice for African Americans and people of color, who she believes have been unheard in recent years. Asked what she can add to the council, she said, “Number one is going to be diversity.”

Raglin would be the first councilwoman of color and the first African American since Aaron Hamilton served in 2011-14. He signed her nominating petition.

She reiterated her motivation for running during the candidates’ forum, saying she wants “to be that voice you don’t hear; I want to be that Black voice. I’ve lived in Midway all my life and I’ve been silent. I don’t want to be silent anymore; I want my voice to be heard.”

Raglin worked for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County government for 27 years as a 911 operator and also retired from the Army Reserve after 25 years. The council appointed her to the Woodford County Human Rights Commission in 2016, and she would have to resign from the commission if elected.

During the forum, the candidates agreed on many topics, but Raglin was one of two who opposed city funding for public restrooms, along with incumbent Logan Nance.

Asked if it is time to stop rezoning of land for industry in and around Midway, Raglin said, “I would say Midway is a small, quaint, little, personable town. Let’s keep it that way. . . . Midway Station is a big enough project that will keep Midway busy for a while.”

The council has reduced property taxes as real-estate assessments have gone up. Raglin was asked if that should continue, or if the occupational tax should be reduced. “Reducing the property-tax rates would be very beneficial to all property owners, especially our elderly and our senior citizens,” she said. “I really need to take the time to study more about occupational taxes, though.”

Asked if the city should fund another round of covid-19 relief to businesses, Raglin said she wouldn't object. “Everyone is struggling during this covid-19, so if we can help, then we should.”

Speeding has been an issue in Midway for a long time. Raglin said, “I say put more speed-limit signs.”

Raglin said she supports the idea of a new fire station, “one that would be able to house all of the equipment we have and possibly have space for future equipment we made need later and still be accessible for the city of Midway at Midway Station.”

Asked if the council should accept the proposed deal on the buffer-zone land at Midway Station, Raglin said, “This is what excites me about having a seat on the Midway City Council. This is what I want to learn more about and have a voice that will affect everyone in Midway.”

Asked what the city should do about the property at 116 E. Main St. if the owner doesn’t complete repairs by Oct. 31, she said the owner should get more time if requested. “If he is making an effort in getting the repairs done but has not yet completed the job I would be a little more patient,” she said. “If he just flat out refuses to make the repairs, then the building inspector or the mayor/city council has to take the next step . . . whatever that is.”

Raglin says she wants to be on the council to learn how to help with issues “I’ve lived in Midway, in my own little bubble, my own little world. I don’t know what this driving force is other than I don’t know, my Lord and Savior, that I need to get involved.”



# Steve Simoff seeks second term on council after sitting out last election

By Taylor Beavers

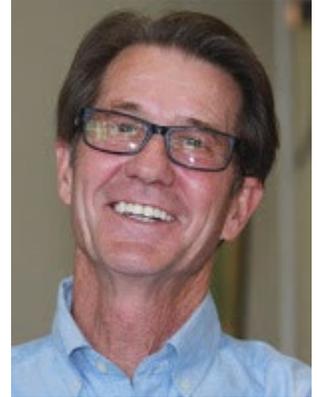
City council candidate Steve Simoff knew early on that he wanted to get involved in politics.

As a child growing up in the farming town of Orient, Iowa, he watched his father attend city council meetings and learned the importance of community involvement. After graduating from Omaha School of Art, Simoff spent his adult years learning the customer service trade.

He trained horses for 18 years and then managed a race horse center for three years. When he moved to Midway, he was the operations director at Margaux Farm for five years. He is a certified racing official and has worked as a placing judge.

He has also worked for travel agencies and now owns a vacation rental in Midway called Horse Country Cottage. "After you run three companies you kind of get an understanding of what people expect and what people need," he said.

Simoff, 71, has lived in the Midway area for 20 years. He was elected to the council four years ago but didn't seek re-election in 2018. He said he decided to take a break to focus on his health when he learned he had issues with his spine. He said he also used the last two years to learn more about the position, following council meetings and gaining a better understanding of the job.



Simoff said he decided that now was the right time to try again because "I love this town and the people in it." He said he wants to help the council continue to support the community's needs, such as how the city supported business during COVID-19.

He approves of the relief funding that was given to Midway businesses and said, "It was one of the best things the city council did." If the council has another such opportunity, Simoff said, he would support that. "If it would come up again and we're still fighting the covid virus and things are slow," he said, "all the businesses downtown certainly can use some support."

Simoff said he believes that any time the council is in a position to give citizens a break, they should. For example, he was in favor of the council lowering property taxes in response to rising real-estate assessments.

When thinking about the future of Midway, he says he wants to balance the growth of the city with maintaining the city's "charm." He said the city has reached a stopping point when it comes to the rezoning of land for industry in and around Midway, and fears that traffic will become a large issue. Despite this, he also acknowledges the positive effects of this growth, such as the taxes it is bringing in.

Simoff endorsed the idea of moving the fire station to Midway Station to have a better place for the recently purchased ladder truck and be closer to an area that gets many fire calls.

Simoff said he would also approve of the council accepting the deal with the Woodford County Economic Development Authority to create a buffer zone at Midway Station to retire the debt EDA owes the city. He said he believes this would help make the industrial park more attractive.

On speeding, Simoff said the council should consider putting up more stop signs. He also said the council may be able to work with the state in order to get the local speed limits changed. He said there is a good presence of police officers in the city and they are doing a good job of patrolling for the issue.

If the property on 116 W. Main St. doesn't have its repairs completed by the building inspector's deadline of Oct. 31, Simoff said the property owner should have a meeting with the blighted property committee to figure out what can be done. "People need to communicate and communicate between each other and try to find a solution," he said.

Simoff said that the council working as a team is a priority for him. He said he wants to be involved with finding common ground and making good decisions for the community, helping plans be carried out "in a timely manner."

# Bruce Southworth cites experience: 'I know what it takes to run a city'

By Jordan Brown

Bruce Southworth has learned the ins and outs of local government over the last 35 years. He has served four terms on the Midway City Council and hopes his experience will help elect him to his fifth two-year term.

"I've been working for cities for 27 years," Southworth said in an interview. "I know how cities operate; I know what it takes to run a city."

Southworth, 64, retired in 2011 after 27 years of public employment. He was water-treatment plant operator for six years in Georgetown, then wastewater-treatment plant operator in Midway for 11 years. He also served as public works director and city administrator in Versailles.

Southworth's experience has been felt. He has been vocal about the need to repair and upgrade sewage systems, and feels like he needs to be on the council for the 20-year wastewater plant review.

Before the last election in 2018, Southworth said he planned on this being his last term, but now says he "miscalculated" the timing of the wastewater-plant review. "I wanted to be here for that," he said, "and I'm assuming it will come in this next term."

Asked why he deserves to be re-elected, he said, "Well, I don't know, I guess that's up to the people. I feel like I've done a pretty good job, but I feel like that's not my choice."

Asked how he thinks Mayor Grayson Vandegrift has been doing, Southworth said, "I think Grayson has done really well. We're really good friends and I think he's on top of it." He said he has no desire to run for mayor in 2022.

Southworth repeatedly stressed the team format for being on the council. "I'm just one vote," he said. "There's five other people on there that vote on these things. It's hard to take credit for something that five other people agree with you on."

He added, "We've cut property taxes, we've reduced our sewer fees; those are things I think we needed to do. But of course, I think everyone on the council felt the same way."

Southworth did not participate in the candidate forum but replied via email to questions asked in it.

"I feel we have sufficient industrial property to keep Midway going for several years," he said. "I see no need to rezone any property currently." Asked if he was worried about Midway becoming stagnant if not developed more, Southworth said, "I strongly feel that Midway is such a unique, tight-knit, community that stagnation would not be an issue."

Asked if the city should continue to reduce property-tax rates if real-estate assessments keep going up, or reduce the occupational tax rate, Southworth said, "I'm always in favor of lowering taxes if the city coffers can withstand it. The occupational tax should not be reduced."

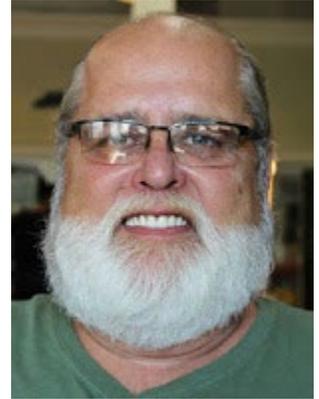
Southworth said city should fund another round of relief to businesses if it gets federal funds for it, and should accept the buffer-zone deal at Midway Station.

He said the city should seriously consider replacing the fire station with a new one at Midway Station. "Of course, funding for such a facility will be the controlling factor."

As for speeding, "Speed tables and speed humps seem to be the most viable solutions," he said.

Southworth ran sixth of six candidates in 2018 but remains optimistic heading into the election that would reward him with a fifth term.

"The people will make up their mind," he said. "If they think I'm doing a good job they'll elect me again, if they don't, I'm sure I'll be at home."



# Stacy Thurman, seeking second term, cites 'passion for public service'

By Evan Johnson

"I've always had a passion for public service," City Council Member Stacy Thurman says as she seeks a second term. She runs the Midway Branch Library, is a member of the Midway Woman's Club and has been an AIDS volunteer.

Asked what qualities are most important for a council member, she said "I think a great council is made up of people with different qualities and opinions. This brings a diversity to the decision-making process." She also stressed the ability to be able to work well in a team, and said she tries "to be transparent and a quiet voice of reason."

Thurman was born and raised in Madison County, and says her childhood was so rural that the family had no neighbors. She has an art degree from Berea College and a master's in library science from the University of Kentucky. She and her husband Ian have two children.

Thurman shared her thoughts on what areas of Midway need the most work, and a common theme was "the infrastructure. It's not sexy." She said she would like to see more sidewalks or walkways to and from Midway University's campus and from Northside. "I am dedicated to working toward the creation of safer routes for pedestrians."

Asked about rezoning of land for industry around Midway, she said, "I feel that Midway Station has been very successful, but is also starting to reach a capacity and I am not in favor of expanding our USB to allow for more industry." That is the Urban Services Boundary.

As for the idea of a new fire station being built at Midway Station, "It's certainly an option worth looking into. The fire station on Bruen is aging and may become more burdensome to the city in the near future. We need to hear from our fire department, evaluate the response time from Midway Station, and weigh the financial strain of a new building."

Thurman chairs the city's Affordable Housing Committee, which was created in April 2019 and has had meetings but has issued no reports or proposals. "I would like to get the community involved by conducting a housing needs assessment and working with landowners and planning and zoning to come up with more equitable options for those who want to live and grow old in Midway," she said.

According to Bowen National Research, a housing needs assessment identifies housing issues and solutions for decisions regarding the housing market. It serves as a basis for future housing and policy decisions and can be utilized to gauge and secure financing for future projects or programs in housing.

Asked whether the city should continue to reduce property-tax rates if real-estate assessments keep going up, or reduce the occupational tax rate, Thurman replied, "If these factors are forcing people out of Midway, if they are creating barriers for our residents and small businesses, then, yes, we should try and eliminate those barriers if it is fiscally responsible to do so."

Thurman said that while "growth is needed, we do need to take better care of our citizens on fixed income." She added, "I would like to explore equitable housing options in Midway, outside of single-family residential."

Thurman said the council should accept the proposed deal on the buffer-zone land at Midway Station, taking it in return for forgiving debts of the Woodford County Economic Development Authority. "The debt is not likely to be collected and the green space we would gain would serve as a nice cloak, of sorts, for the industrial park."

Asked what should be done about 116 E. Main St. if the owner doesn't complete repairs by the building inspector's deadline of Oct. 31, she said "I would like to see this process play out, within reason, to try and save this historical building."

