Ostrow Seeks Second Term

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Scott Ostrow has filed for re-election as county commissioner in District 4. So far he has no Republican primary opposition. Ryan B. Daniels has filed as a Democrat.

Ostrow was one of the first candidates to file (beaten by a day by Tom Jarboe),.

Why run again? "Helping people really," he said. "I like being able to, when people call me and they've got a problem that they need help solving or getting something accomplished, that's really my most favorite part of the job. You know, that's just constituent services."

Ostrow agreed that dealing with the intricacies of government can be daunting. "Yes, that's very true. But that's my absolute favorite part of the job, and I like being out in the community and meeting with people. I'm the only commissioner to consistently do town hall meetings on a regular basis. I've been doing those ever since I was elected. I do one every quarter at Bay District Volunteer Fire Department. And I've also recently started, in addition to that, doing one every quarter at each one of the senior centers, because sometimes it's difficult for our older citizens to get to Bay District. They deserve the respect. Let's bring the information to them."

What are some of the concerns he's hearing? "It depends on what senior center I go to."

He explained, "If I go to Mechanicsville, up in that area, a lot of the concerns are about STS buses, because there's a lot of the seniors rely heavily upon those." He said people want 24/7/365 service "because some people work on those holidays. The folks that are in grocery stores and things like that, they need to be able to get to work."

He said, "One of the big things at one of my very first town halls was there was a great need for a roundabout in the Westbury (neighborhood). People tend to speed through there."

He lists that as one of his accomplishments. "They're getting a roundabout there because that was a big safety concern."

Ostrow touts the redevelopment of the old Millison Plaza and his work with St. Mary's Square as indications of the rebirth of Lexington Park, including hundreds of new businesses.

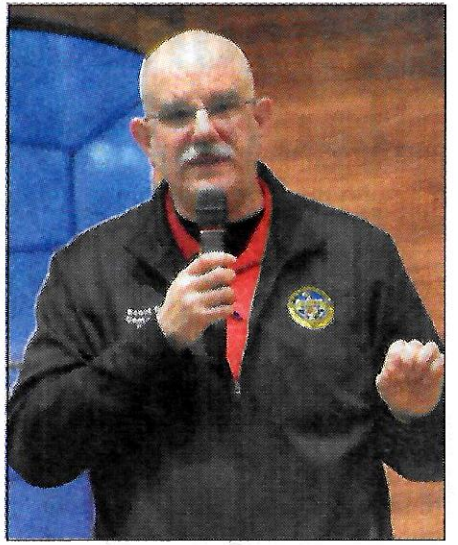
"That was a big push of mine when I ran for election that I wanted to revitalize Lexington Park. And I'm working with a lot of the stakeholders. We've accomplished a tremendous amount there."

As to the Navy's concerns about AICUZ (Air Installation Compatible Use Zone), he said, "We want to respect our Navy partners. We want to be able to work with them. They have legitimate concerns, and we want to make sure that we're always taking those into account."

Ostrow, who works for a contractor, believes the Navy's presence is strong.

Which leads to one of his main issues.. "We need housing in St. Mary's County, especially affordable housing. And the area to put that in is obviously Lexington Park, Great Mills area. There's a lot going in there."

The level of concern came out when he was reminded of his Santa Claus role during the holidays. If he sat on Santa's lap, what would he ask? "Really, truly solving the housing issue that we have in this community that's huge. We have a real issue with affordable housing. It means different things to different people. What's affordable to me might not be affordable to you or somebody else."



Commissioner Scott Ostrow. Photo by Ceandra Scott.

He said people tell him, "I really didn't know about you when you got elected. You made a lot of promises and you consistently delivered on the promises that you've made."

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