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The race is on

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Several local citizens - including incumbents who currently serve and some new names - have qualified for election to the Oak Ridge City Council, Oak Ridge Board of Education, and the Oliver Springs City Council.

The deadline to qualify for the local June 7 elections was at noon Thursday.

On the ballot for Oak Ridge City Council will be Tom Beehan, Willie Golden Jr., Martin McBride, Jane Miller, David Mosby and Ellen Smith. Beehan, Golden, Miller and Mosby are currently serving as council members.

Beehan, the city's vice mayor, has served on City Council since 2001. A member and past chairman of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, he is a senior agency consultant with State Farm Insurance in Knoxville.

Golden, a longtime employee of the Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Department before he retired in November 1999, is currently the director of programs for the Anderson County Probation Services Department. He was first elected to City Council in 2001.

Miller was appointed to Oak Ridge City Council in October 2003 and was successful in her 2004 election campaign. An Oak Ridge High School and University of Tennessee graduate, she is responsible for community and visitor relations at the Y-12 National Security Complex.

Mosby, first elected in 2001, is a project manager at BWXT Y-12, and is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee and Mississippi. He has been active in numerous civic organizations, including the Atomic City Sportman's Club, Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board, and the Oak Ridge Boys Club.

McBride organized the Oak Ridge Accountability Project group in 2002, which conducted two city-wide petition drives pertaining to the mall bond and the city charter. In addition to assignments working for a large private corporation and a public utility, McBride also has served as director of the Nuclear Safety Division for the local Department of Energy office.

Smith, a research staff member in the Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, is chairman of the city's Environmental Quality Advisory Board, of which she has been a member since 1991. She ran for City Council in August 2004, and came in second behind Miller.

Two incumbents - Jennifer Richter and John W. Smith Jr. - and three other citizens - Dan DiGregorio, Charlie Hughey and Bill Zulliger - have qualified for election to the Oak Ridge Board of Education.

Richter is serving her first four-year term on the School Board, following volunteer work as a member of the board of directors for The Children's Center in Knoxville. A lawyer by trade, she is the associate director of equity and diversity at the University of Tennessee.

John W. Smith Jr. has served for three terms - 11 years - on the School Board, and currently is the chairman. A project manager at SAIC, he also is a past member of Leadership Oak Ridge and the board of directors for the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce.

DiGregorio began his teaching and coaching career with the Oak Ridge schools in 1971 at Jefferson Junior High (now Middle) School, retiring in 2000. DiGregorio also coached football as an assistant and head coach for 19 years and also coached track and cross-country; he continues to coach track at Oak Ridge High School.

A chemist by trade, Hughey works for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration at the Y-12 National Security Complex. He is a current participant in Leadership Oak Ridge, and he and his family, who are originally from Columbus, Ga., moved here from Virginia three and a half years ago.

Zulliger is an engineer at BWXT Y-12. An Oak Ridge native, he is a 1981 graduate of Oak Ridge High School and has served on the Boys Club of Oak Ridge Board of Directors for 12 years.

Citizens who have qualified for the Oliver Springs municipal election include Edwin L. Kelley, the town's current mayor who is seeking another term, and O. Russell Jr., who also is seeking the mayor's position.

John C. Chadwell is the only candidate to qualify in Ward One. Chris Hepler and Paul Parson are seeking election in Ward Two. Martin T. Craze is seeking election in Ward Four.

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