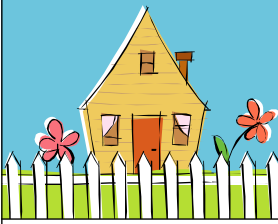


Save Deer Run Newsletter

August 4, 2020 - Volume 2, Issue 9



SPECIAL BCC DISTRICT 1 ISSUE: CANDIDATE MATT MORGAN

Background to this interview and disclaimer:

In July 2020, Save Deer Run Citizen's Action Group invited all three candidates who qualified for the Seminole County District One Board of Commissioner's seat to complete a ten-question written interview. Each candidate received the same set of questions. We publish the candidate responses in their entirety. We have not edited them in any way. Matt Morgan was the second candidate to return his written interview completed. We have published his interview in the order in which we received it. His opponent, Bob Dallari, previously had his interview presented in the SDR Newsletter - Volume 2, Issue 8. Katrina Shadix initially indicated that she was willing to complete the questions and return them to us. However, she did not submit them before our publication deadline and has not sent them to SDR as of the publication date of this newsletter volume (August 4, 2020).

Matt Morgan is a candidate for the District One seat. He currently lives in Longwood, which is not located in District One. If he wins the primary, he will have to move into the district. He is running for the Republican nomination for the seat.

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. Florida is a closed-primary state. This means that only Registered Republicans can vote in the primary election between Bob Dallari and Matt Morgan. The winner of the Primary Election will run against Democrat Katrina Shadix in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.



SAVE DEER RUN INTERVIEW WITH MATT MORGAN

Please tell us a little bit about yourself. What do you want voters to know about your background?

I'm the current mayor in Longwood. In 2017, I took on the political establishment and the Seminole County Swamp by challenging a two-term, well funded incumbent and decisively won. I am a former WWE Superstar, and a former American Gladiator. Husband to Larissa & Father to a beautiful six-year-old nonverbal autistic son named Jackson. Jackson is my "why." I retired from the WWE in the delivery room at Winnie Palmer when Jackson was born. I was not expecting the retirement switch to go off in my head, but it did when I held my son.

Why did you decide to run for the Seminole County BCC seat in District One?

I love being a public servant! It's not work for me! It's a passion that I eat, sleep, and drink every day.

My opponent has been in office for 16 long years! I'm somebody that believes firmly in term limits. In fact, in Longwood, we passed term limits after I got elected, and I would like to do the same in Seminole County: 2 four-year terms.

In the last year alone, I received well over thousands of texts, emails, phone calls, social media comments, from Seminole residents asking me to step up to the county level and take the way I lead in Longwood to the county.

What talents, experiences, or qualities do you have that will allow you to represent the residents of District One as their county commissioner?

The simple ability to be very black-and-white when it comes to being honest with people! I'm no career politician. I don't think you're supposed to make a career out of this at all. You're supposed to get in and get out and try to affect as much positive change and positivity as possible on behalf of your residents wishes!

I'm a complete political outsider, and I wear that like a badge of honor! And that makes Seminole County swamp creatures VERY nervous because I am not a groomed politician and can't be swayed. When I got elected in Longwood, I made us the first city in the Southeast region of the United States to adopt all commission meetings on Facebook Live. You can't count everybody to always show up at the meeting in person. We want our residents engaged and knowledgeable about what is going on in their government. I want to do the same for the County Commission and bring more transparency to the process.

We went from having 16 people come to our Longwood commission meetings to up to 4000 people watching through social media. My city email blows up after the meetings with people giving suggestions and opinions. We even showed on Facebook Live, our interview process for a new city manager! We even showed our community on Facebook live our budget workshops! There are no "shade meetings" in the City of Longwood, and I do not want them on the county level, ever! I want everything done in the daylight.

If elected as the BCC's District One commissioner, what will be the first thing you want to achieve once you have been sworn into office?

There are two items I want to do right away! I want to strengthen the language defending our rural boundary, making it tougher to overturn the people's will. I want to immediately get on the agenda term limits and make the other commissioners vote on this!

What is your stance on changing the laws in Seminole County to allow development in areas currently protected by the voter-approved Rural Boundary?

Let me be incredibly clear about this one: I most certainly do not want to develop one single solitary thing on our rural boundary! We need to strengthen the language protecting the Rural Boundary and continue to uphold the people's will.

Nearly 57% of my opponent's campaign contributions come from land developer interests! We should have never gotten to the precipice of a potential River Cross project! My opponent should've been much more clear from the onset and said, "hell no!"

I've signed the Rural Boundary pledge to defend it tooth and nail.

What is your stance when it comes to development of open and green spaces in Seminole County?

I absolutely hate it! Our green spaces are central to our quality of life. Again, we must strengthen the language defending the Rural Boundary. The incumbent has had 16 years to do this and has not. I believe in putting your money where your mouth is.



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Did you know there's a Facebook group where you can discuss matters about the golf course closing? Check us out!

https://www.facebook.com/pg/SaveDeerRun/groups/?ref=page_internal

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.savedeerrun.com/>

Seminole County is currently in the process of gaining public input about potential changes to and revision of the Seminole County Land Development Code. Do you support changes to these laws or not? Please explain.

Clarity. That's what I want to see in our codes. We need to develop codes that are easy for everyday citizens, not just attorneys or developers, can understand. We need to articulate a framework that protects our natural beauty and gives clear guidance for smart growth and development.

Over the last few months, Seminole County has discussed the potential idea of buying the former Country Club at Deer Run in Casselberry to convert it into a passive recreation park. Do you support this idea? Why or why not?

Absolutely Yes, I support this! This action will preserve the integrity of Deer Run and what makes it a special area to live in.

As a candidate, if you accepted campaign donations from special interest groups, how can you assure voters that you will remain impartial on issues that will come before you as a commissioner?

Look no further than in 2017 with my Longwood election. I took a \$1000 campaign contribution from the Sanford kennel club. That is the oldest business in Longwood's history at the time. My two-term opponent and the men responsible for River Cross development sent out attack mailers saying that I was going to turn Longwood into Las Vegas because I took that donation. It was absolutely absurd. Not only did that not come to fruition for the Dog Track, but the Dog Track is no longer even in business anymore!

Nobody can sway my vote except one group of people: YOU, the residents of Seminole County. People invest in my agenda, not the other way around!

What are the three issues you consider to be the most important facing Seminole County residents today and why?

Right now, the most pressing issue facing Seminole County is the economy. We are facing a job market and business climate never before felt in our nation's history. At all levels of government, from federal to local, we must support our businesses and job creators. We need to eliminate any barriers that government red tape imposes on companies from operating the freest they can. I don't want to see a business owner dedicating significant portions of their day to useless government paperwork when they could be closing their next sale to keep the lights on.

