

Pine Lake discovers its city elections dried up

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DATE: October 22, 1987

PUBLICATION: The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution

EDITION: The Atlanta Journal Constitution

SECTION: EXTRA

PAGE: A/4

Finding someone who wants to serve on the **Pine Lake City** Council is a pretty tough task, it seems. "You pretty much have to go scraping through the bushes," acknowledged Mayor Myra Singer.

There won't be a **city** election in **Pine Lake** this year because, just like last year, no one stepped forward to run against the incumbent **City** Council members.

The two incumbents who were scheduled to be **up** for re-election Nov. 2 - auditor Richard Newman and Brad Rosselle, a service technician for the Xerox Corp. - both have agreed to begin new, three-year terms on the council. **Pine Lake** councilors serve without pay.

Rosselle and Newman are not the only ones in the town of 900 residents who will begin new council terms without facing any competition at the polls.

Just after the qualifying period for this year's election ended Oct. 9., council member Jennifer Brabson resigned because she is moving out of town. The council will appoint a replacement for Ms. Brabson, Ms. Singer said.

Because no one showed an interest in running for Rosselle's or Newman's seat, said Ms. Singer, "we don't even know who we're going to appoint at this point."

She said council members usually have to recruit from among their neighbors in order to keep all five council positions filled. She said that is due in part to the **city's** policy of not paying **its** council members - a policy the council does not have any plans to change.

In their combined 3 1/2 years of service on the council, neither Newman nor Rosselle ever has been elected to the board. The **City** Council appointed Newman to **its** ranks in 1985 to replace council member Al Bean, who moved out of town. The council then appointed Rosselle a council member in 1986, replacing Susan Spangler, who resigned for personal reasons.

Both Newman and Rosselle were slated to run for their seats in the 1986 **city** election, but no candidates qualified to run against them or Charlotte Neil, another council member who was slated to be **up** for re-election. So that election also was canceled.

Photo: Mug of Myra Singer