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## The Clifton race

By Athelia Knight  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Only two candidates' names are on the May 4 election ballot for the six mayor and town council seats in the tiny town of Clifton in southwestern Fairfax County.

The other candidates, who are now waging a word-of-mouth written campaign in this small town of 140 residents, missed the filing deadline for the election. The cut-off date was March 2.

The two official candidates, Wayne Nickum and David Smith, are both current members of the town council. Nickum, 22, is running for mayor. Nickum, who works for the Internal Revenue Service, said there are not any major issues in the election. The election is decided on personalities, he said.

Smith, who is completing his first two-year term as a council member, said he is concerned with preserving the historic image of the Clifton, which prides itself on its 19th-century architectural structures. Smith, 42, works for the Defense Department.

According to Phyllis D. Waters, the incumbent mayor who is not seeking re-election, the mayor's duties include presiding over the monthly town meetings, breaking council tie votes, and serving as the liaison between the town and other local governments.

The mayor and the town council members serve two-year terms and are not paid. The town council oversees the town budget, which for the coming year is estimated at \$5,370, \$630 less than the current \$6,000 budget.

Any structural improvements on the estimated 40 homes and seven businesses in this quarter-square-mile town must be approved by the town council.

There are 87 registered voters in the town and Mayor Waters said in recent elections nearly all the registered voters have cast ballots on election day.

Waters said she is confident that there will be enough write-in candidates to fill the six vacant town seats.

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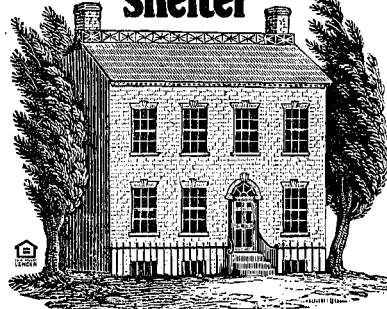
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Athelia Knight is Staff Writer, The Washington Post

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