

Pine Lake politics appears to be ho-hum issue to most

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When Brad Rosselle showed up for a couple of **Pine Lake** City Council meetings a few years ago he said he went to let the council know what was on his mind. What he got in return was an invitation to serve on the five-member board to fill the unexpired term of a parting council member. "They said, `You've been to a couple of meetings. Would you be interested in joining the council?'" he said. Now it's Mr. Rosselle the city will need a replacement for. The 35-year-old councilman is getting married and moving to Lilburn. When Brad Rosselle showed up for a couple of **Pine Lake** City Council meetings a few years ago he said he went to let the council know what was on his mind. What he got in return was an invitation to serve on the five-member board to fill the unexpired term of a parting council member. "They said, `You've been to a couple of meetings. Would you be interested in joining the council?' " he said. Now it's Mr. Rosselle the city will need a replacement for. The 35-year-old councilman is getting married and moving to Lilburn. Although the city hasn't officially started looking for someone to take over the post until the next election, some city officials say finding willing volunteers is no easy task. "People are just not that interested. Hopefully we'll get people more involved in city politics," City Manager Judy Griswell said.

With a population of about 900, **Pine Lake** has never been known for its rough-and-tumble politics, and it shows: The city has not had to hold an election since 1982 because no one has contested council re-election bids. Councilman Michael Stuckey said he would have enjoyed running a campaign during the scheduled 1989 city elections but he had no challengers. "I was unopposed, unfortunately. I like the idea of a campaign to make sure people don't become complacent," said Mr. Stuckey, who is halfway through a two-year term. Mr. Rosselle, who ran unopposed for a three-year term last December, said he has been talking to possible candidates to replace him. Mayor Neil Copeland said he is not overly concerned with finding someone interested in the part-time non-salaried position. Council members, he said, work well together and the vacancy will not pose a problem in the city's decision-making. "There are no power struggles [in **Pine Lake**]," he said. Nevertheless, the difficulty in rousing interest for city politics concerns him in a different way.

"It concerns me in a philosophical way. I wish more people had an interest in public service. But I recognize [lack of interest] as part of the nature of the community." Photo: Mayor Neil Copeland - He says the vacancy will not pose a problem in the city's decision-making.

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