



Name: Lou Ann Earnhardt

Profession: Adult Geriatrics Nurse Practitioner, Owner of Island Time Medical and Wellness, PLLC

Education: Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Winston Salem State University and Master of Science in Nursing (AGPCNP) from South University in Savannah, Georgia.

Spouse name and profession: Don Earnhardt, Retired Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

• **Community involvement** – Public Safety Volunteer, Past Chairman Social, Recreation, and Education Committee – Bald Head Island Association, Tennis Committee – Bald Head Island Country Club, owner of Island Time Medical and Wellness, PLLC, which provides services to island residents, employees and contractors.

• **What principles do you adhere to?** My political principles are the same as my personal principles. Integrity, Honesty, Commitment and Cooperation. Every island taxpayer deserves a voice despite their residency status. My commitment is to bring honest and transparent communication to Village Government. I value cooperation and recognize the need to develop better working relationships with our neighboring communities, state legislature, and organizations on the Island. We must work as a team supporting and respecting each other with a goal of preserving the Heart and Soul of the Island, while restoring a sense of community.

• **What drew you to Bald Head Island initially?** My first visit to the Island was during the generator society days, no electricity, no ferry, no grocery store, and communication by CB radios. I was drawn then, as I am now, to the splendor and uniqueness of the Island's forests, oceans, and abundant wildlife. Through our yearly vacations, my family developed a love for the island, its history, its serenity, and its sense of community. No traffic, amusement parks, large souvenir shops, or chain restaurants.

• **What makes BHI special to you?** The amazing sense of community. The love of the Island I have seen in my children's eyes for years and I now see in my grandchildren. The friendships I have made and the support of community and Islanders, both new and old. The strong desire to conserve and preserve all our Island has to offer and the passion with which we work to save all we hold dear.

• **How do you envision balancing the wants and needs of full-time residents, part-time residents, renters, and day-trippers?** One of my core principals is cooperation. Between these groups there are competing as well as aligning interests. As Mayor, I will work with all stakeholders of the island to ensure inclusion in Village government. Renters and day-trippers are integral parts of the financial sustainability of the Island and its businesses. Through educational and informational videos, which will play continuously at Deep Point Marina, we hope to foster our love of community and island resources to all island visitors and contractors. By establishing a welcome/information center at Deep Point, we will help acclimate island visitors. We must improve ADA accessibility and provide public restrooms.

• **What do your background and experience tell you will be important on BHI within the next 10 years? 20 years?** Since I first came to the island in the early 80s, things have certainly changed. Growth has been slower than originally projected, but it has been faster in the last few years. The sense of community we all love is starting to disappear and must be restored. Demand for services and resources are at an all-time high. We will continue to see changes and growth throughout the Island. However, because of my history with and love for the island, everything done as Mayor will be to preserve the uniqueness of the island for generations to come. To do this, we must have integrity and honesty in Village government, plan for infrastructure improvements, enhance public safety, develop emergency and evacuation plans, accurately account for accommodations taxes, and institute commercial building standards to prevent over commercialization. How we manage these issues and others now will determine what the island is like in ten or twenty years.