

http://www

# Candidate Profiles

RRCA E-News  
Special Edition

Rocky Ripple Community Association, 930 West 54<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis, IN 46208  
www.rockyripple.org rrcmassoc@aol.com

## Rocky Ripple Town Council Elections on November 5<sup>th</sup> – Know Your Candidates

As a group with the mission to serve our community, the Rocky Ripple Community Association (RRCA) would like to assist in educating our townspeople about the candidates for the upcoming Rocky Ripple Town Council election that will take place on November 5, 2019.

The Rocky Ripple Town Council is made up of three elected town councilors and a clerk/treasurer. Councilors and the clerk/treasurer must reside in Rocky Ripple. Candidates are elected to serve a four year term.

In this special edition of the RRCA E-News, you will find a profile of each candidate running in the current election, along with their answers on questions of interest to our community. Also included is a profile of Julie Smith, candidate for Rocky Ripple Clerk-Treasurer, who is running unopposed in this election.

This newsletter complements the “Meet the Candidates” question and answer session that will be held on October 10, 2019 at the town hall.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Clerk-Treasurer Candidate  
Julie Smith
- 2 Candidate Matt Baxter
- 3 Candidate Andy Hazel
- 4 Candidate Megan Hulland
- 5 Candidate Mandy Redmond
- 6 Candidate Randy Sanders

---

*“Bad officials are elected  
by good citizens who do  
not vote.”*

George Jean Nathan  
American Journalist, Critic,  
Essayist and Editor, 1882-1958

---

## Clerk/Treasurer Candidate Julie Smith



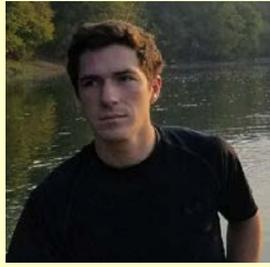
Hello everyone, I am **Julie Smith** and I am running for Rocky Ripple Clerk-Treasurer.

**Who am I?** I have been a resident of Rocky Ripple for 26 years. Grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Attended Indiana University. Married to Micheal, and have 3 college aged kids, Madeline, Erin, and Jonathan.

**Why am I running?** Quite simply, Carla Gaff-Clark asked me. It was almost July and there was nobody signed up to run. She was concerned about leaving the board without a Clerk-Treasurer in place. After some consideration, I agreed. I have been a volunteer treasurer for two different organizations and have always had an interest in this particular position. However, other volunteer activities and time commitments prevented me from looking into it more until now. I look forward to serving Rocky Ripple in the coming years.

Vote for **Julie Smith** for Clerk-Treasurer on November 5<sup>th</sup>. **Thank you** in advance.

## Candidate Matt Baxter



My name is Matt Baxter and I was born and raised in Indianapolis. For the last six years, I have been a proud resident of the beautiful town of Rocky Ripple. I love this town and cannot imagine living anywhere else. I graduated from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs with a bachelor's degree in Public Financial Management. Currently, I am a project manager for a local contractor. I have a love and strong respect for the outdoors and serve as an Assistant Scoutmaster in my Scout troop to help foster this appreciation for nature in our younger generations.

***Why do you want serve the Rocky Ripple community as a town council representative?***

My ability to communicate and develop relationships with people will make me a valuable member of our town council. I am independently minded and am a passionate problem solver. I care about our community and its residents and the preservation of Rocky Ripple's unique identity.

***What qualities and/or experiences do you possess that you believe make you a strong candidate for the position?***

As our town prepares to endure years of significant construction with the impending flood wall project, my experience in construction management will be instrumental in effectively communicating and coordinating between our town, contractors, and the city. The method that the city is using to approach the flood wall project leaves a lot of room for change in the design prescribed by Flood Project Option 3. Developing relationships with decision makers and communication between stakeholders will be very important to ensure that final project designs and implementation strategies minimize negative impacts to our community and the environment. I am uniquely capable to work with stakeholders to develop better designs, address individual concerns, and provide a better outcome for our town.

***What do you think are the two most important issues facing Rocky Ripple at this time?***

The two most important issues Rocky Ripple faces are Flood Protection and Future Planning. While the flood wall project is a divisive topic within our community, the risk of flood damage is important to us all as our earthen levy has degraded with time, which leaves us more vulnerable to flooding. Flooding could significantly impact our ability to live here in our little slice of heaven, making the need for flood protection very important to us all. Our town operates on a limited budget, but the maintenance of our infrastructure like roads and bridges requires large expenditures. I would like for Rocky Ripple to focus on creating a plan to increase our reserve funds for major infrastructure investments.

***What is your vision for the future of Rocky Ripple and what will do as a council member to realize your vision?***

My vision for the future of Rocky Ripple is for us to preserve the legacy of a peaceful, "off the beaten path" community. I will work hard to maintain transparency with the community and find creative solutions to our town's challenges.

## Candidate Megan Hulland



*Canadian by birth, Rocky Rippler by the grace of the White River*

Growing up in Canada, I first moved to the United States in 2001 and eventually found my way to Indiana six years ago when I was offered a Women in Business scholarship at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Upon completion of my MBA, I joined the marketing team of a local pharmaceutical company and have spent the last four years settling in to life in the Hoosier state, but it's not until I drive over the canal into Rocky Ripple at the end of the day that I truly feel at home.

***Why do you want serve the Rocky Ripple community as a town council representative?***

I love our precious, eclectic community.

***What qualities and/or experiences do you possess that you believe make you a strong candidate for the position?***

In my day-to-day role as a brand manager, I work in a heavily regulated environment with a lot of diverse opinions and perspectives. Working in healthcare, there is also a lot at stake, including the lives of patients and the rising costs of medical treatment. Despite these risks, I live every day with openness, curiosity and determination. I thrive in situations where different thinkers are asked to bring their perspectives to the table to work together through ambiguity.

***What do you think are the two most important issues facing Rocky Ripple at this time?***

As a council representative for Rocky Ripple, I would apply these same skills for the benefit of our town, approaching major issues like representing Rocky Ripple's voice in the development of flood protection infrastructure and championing community affordability for longtime residents with a sensitive and strategic eye.

Moreover, I am committed to transparently communicating to residents, providing clarity on all town initiatives and ensuring that we as a neighborhood are deeply connected to one another and to the world around us. Our corner of Indianapolis is rife with opportunity for engagement and innovative thinking, be it in conjunction with Butler University or simply with a neighbor down the street who has an unconventional outlook.

***What is your vision for the future of Rocky Ripple and what will do as a council member to realize your vision?***

Rocky Ripple is its own special kind of utopia. With an eye on our future, I will watch out for the best interests of Rocky Ripple and ensure that our town remains as vibrant and unique as ever. Whether or not you vote for me, I appreciate your genuine consideration and hope that if you take anything away after getting to know me, it's that you realize that I love this community as much as you do.

## Candidate Andy Hazel



Greetings!

I'm Andy Hazel and I've been a resident of Rocky Ripple for over five years along with my wife and two children. Since moving to Rocky Ripple, we have fallen in love with the characteristics that make the town unique. We appreciate the diverse wildlife population and the serenity of the town that allows it to be heard and observed. It's also nice to live in a community where people look out for one another. We enjoy spending time outside so being able walk to the river, Hohlt Park, Butler or bike to the Riviera Club is a major positive.

***Why do you want serve the Rocky Ripple community as a town council representative?***

There are many reasons to love living in Rocky Ripple and it is for all those reasons that I decided to run for town council.

***What qualities and/or experiences do you possess that you believe make you a strong candidate for the position?***

I have always put an emphasis on service whether it be with my church, my children's sports teams, scouts or in my community. Serving on the town council would be my way of giving back to the community. I currently work in government so I have a grasp on governmental procedures and processes.

***What do you think are the two most important issues facing Rocky Ripple at this time?***

Flood protection has been the most important issue in town for decades and will remain so until the levee project is completed. The current state of the earthen levee coupled with the likelihood of flooding in the area makes improving protection a high priority. I've spoken in favor of the project at town board meetings and downtown. Street repair is another important issue in town. Some of the roads have been resurfaced, but many more need repair. This will be an ongoing issue that requires securing grant funds and hiring the appropriate company to perform the work.

***What is your vision for the future of Rocky Ripple and what will do as a council member to realize your vision?***

My vision for Rocky Ripple is one where the town we all love is protected from a flooding disaster. Residents will be free to improve their properties and the town will continue to improve roads and upgrade the Town Hall. I envision an overall improvement in quality of life and for Rocky Ripple to continue to be a refuge for residents and visitors to walk, bike, kayak, play or garden for generations to come.

## Candidate Mandy Redmond



I have been a Rocky Ripple resident since 1983. My husband Paul and I both fell in love with the town of Rocky Ripple when we visited a friend's house in the neighborhood and noticed the nature and beauty of the area. Several weeks later I found our "forever home" and we have happily lived here since then. We have two wonderful daughters that were born and raised in this neighborhood and love it as much as we do. I have been actively involved in our community, serving for six years now on the town council, in various offices of the community association, as festival coordinator for five years and as a community association liaison to the Town Council over the years.

### ***Why do you want serve the Rocky Ripple community as a town council representative?***

I have been involved in our community and town council activities for over 25 years. I love our town and want to see it continue as the unique place that other people want to come live in. I am very proud of my and the town council's hard work over the past six years to secure flood protection for Rocky Ripple. I want to see this project through to completion.

### ***What qualities and/or experiences do you possess that you believe make you a strong candidate for the position?***

I work as director of Quality Assurance for a local pharmaceutical company. My day to day work entails gathering facts and making the best decisions for the patients that use our drugs. I abide by the same philosophy while serving as a Rocky Ripple town councilor. If re-elected, I will continue to gather as much information as possible in order to make sound decisions that best benefit our small portion of the universe and keep this vibrant community thriving.

### ***What do you think are the two most important issues facing Rocky Ripple at this time?***

The single most important and most visible issue for Rocky Ripple is the floodwall project. I understand that this project is a compromise and that there are consequences associated with providing this needed protection. I will ensure our riverfront residents have a say in how this rolls out, as it affects them individually. I cannot come up with a single second most important issue. I plan to keep working on various projects in process for our town - an updated website with enhanced functionality, continued road improvements, "spiffing up" our town hall and sourcing money for a new police car for our marshal to name a few.

### ***What is your vision for the future of Rocky Ripple and what will do as a council member to realize your vision?***

I see us continuing to thrive as a small independent town! Securing flood protection will eventually enable us to be lifted from the flood plain, which means first and foremost a safer community in flood situations, but will also allow us to keep our homes should a major flood event happen. We will have a choice in whether to purchase flood insurance and reduced costs for premiums if we choose to do so. There will be increased opportunities for development for Rocky Ripple home and property owners. As a town council member, I will work side by side with residents and property owners to shape this vision into the reality we want.

## Candidate Randy Sanders



My name is Randy Sanders and I have lived in Rocky Ripple for almost 4 years. I grew up in Brownsburg and lived on the Westside of Indy for 25 years. While searching for a new home we were introduced to Rocky Ripple. It was the quiet place in the city, but 5 minutes from so much. We went searching for a home and found a community. Our community is a place where you can meet a wide array of people and get involved in all aspects of what happens here. If elected, I hope to do even more.

***Why do you want serve the Rocky Ripple community as a town council representative?***

I've worked with my current company for 25 years, running many projects. Planning, detailing a path for success, and working with a range of team members are all skills that will translate well to being a good member of our town council.

***What qualities and/or experiences do you possess that you believe make you a strong candidate for the position?***

I've also attended 90% of our town meetings in the past 3 years to learn as much as I can about this town and what it takes to keep it going, while volunteering with our town festival and community garden.

***What do you think are the two most important issues facing Rocky Ripple at this time?***

As we move forward with the new levee, we need to ensure clear communication between the City, builder companies, our Town Council and community members. We need to ensure people can ask questions and get the most accurate answers we can. There will be tough, unpopular decisions and answers along the way. There almost always are. But I'll work to ensure everyone knows as much as possible before and during each step of the process. Our town council should also work to improve access to the White River for our community and others by making current public access points more accessible than they are today.

***What is your vision for the future of Rocky Ripple and what will do as a council member to realize your vision?***

I also hope to see Rocky Ripple grow through future residential development. I would like to see the community revive some of the old traditions and invite those new community members to learn what living in Rocky Ripple has always meant and can mean for the future.

Please visit my Facebook page at Randy Sanders for Rocky Ripple Town Council 2019.