

ENDORSEMENTS PALM BEACH POST

For Lantana council, vote Zeitler, Castle

Lantana has two openings on its town council. The Palm Beach Post Editorial Board endorses incumbent Mark Zeitler for the Group 3 seat; and Christopher Castle for Group 4.

Zeitler, owner of All-Pro Air Conditioning, lives in the Lantana home his parents bought in 1959. The town is “still calmer than everywhere else,” he says. “I’d like to keep it that way.

He says the town needs to prioritize replacing its aging water and sewer lines, encouraging retail and residential uses for the former K-mart complex, and continuing to staff-up the police department, particularly to address speeding. He’d also like to improve the look of Lantana Road and U.S. 1, where empty storefronts leave a bad impression. Having been a small-business owner, he appreciates the challenge that even well-paid employees have in finding houses they can afford. He doesn’t offer solutions to the housing squeeze but says it needs to be addressed. His opponent in the race is Raymond Lastella, who did not respond to our request for an interview.

Castle also says he’d like to preserve the town’s one-time fishing village feel, but that work is needed on seawalls, drainage and other flood protection. He wants to increase police manpower and add surveillance cameras in parts of town with higher crime rates. He also acknowledges Lantana’s need for more affordable housing. He has worked as facilities maintenance director for 1-800-Pet meds, and previously as an energy control specialist for utility NextEra. His opponent in the race is John Raymer, manager at Ace Rental Place in Lantana and a retired U.S. Army sergeant who served for 21 years.

“Lantana is an awesome little town that needs a little loving,” Castle says.