

for Portsmouth. "We can do this. Having done it, I can do it," she said. Additionally, she informed the crowd that she has contacts around the country that can help.

Skiver stated that he should be mayor because of his 28 years of administrative experience in working in education. "I have looked at the duties of mayor and it doesn't look a lot different than a superintendent," he stated. "... I was a boyscout... If I say I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it," he further added. The remaining questions from the candidates dealt with issues of recreation and collaboration. Murray suggested a parks and leisure time master plan to deal with recreation and stated that the community should be involved by serving on a leisure commission. As far as stating exactly what the commission would plan, she stated, "I'm not going to say what it should be. The community will say."

Skiver stated that he thinks there are significant sources of entertainment throughout the community already. They just need more publicity. He did suggest the addition of a YMCA type facility. Mayor Kalb focused his answer on what has already been done including improvements made recently to many of the community parks. Neither Skiver nor Kalb really knew how to address the question regarding collaborative efforts. Kalb stated, "I would say the city works with numerous organizations."

Murray suggested that the city work with New Boston and the county commissioners. "We don't have to merge governments. We can merge functions of governments," she said. She suggested working with other entities within the

area, not just the city, for answers related to the drug problem, as well as area recreation and eco-tourism. "These are the things we can do with our neighbors and our own resources," she commented.

The first question from the audience was, "What do you feel is the most important concern facing the mayor's position?" Mayor Kalb listed making sure people are in the right positions, making proposals and public speaking. Murray stated, "This year, I have not doubt the most important concern facing who ever becomes mayor is the city's financial situation." She then talked about the city's deficit issues and how she hopes to improve the city budget. Skiver agreed with Murray and proposed a freeze on hiring, a five-year projection of revenue and expenditures and a list of goals. Kalb rebutted by saying, "It was mentioned that some of the city budgets are in the red. That's not uncommon. We've never finished in the red." Murray then rebutted by stating that the city budget is an example of mismanagement. "Nothing has been done since August to deal with the deficit," she stated.

The next question was, "What, if any immediate plans do you have for the development of Portsmouth?" Among other things, Murray suggested supporting small business owners, who are the main component of the country's and city's economy. Skiver answered by saying, "We need to stop this stinkin' thinkin'." He further commented that the city needs to look toward the future. Kalb talked about the Downtown Revitalization Plan already in place.

The final question was, "What do you intend to do

about the large drug abuse issue?" Skiver responded by stating that there needs to be cooperatives between the Counseling Center, the City and Shawnee Mental Health. He further stated that people need Oxycontin, so he does not recommend lobbying to have it taken off the market. Mayor Kalb made the most outrageous comment by stating, "We're not alone in Portsmouth with the drug problem. It is across all of the United States... I'm not against pro-filing." He then explained that when cars from outside of the county are seen, driven by dark men, wearing chains, in cars with tinted windows, handing things out of their windows, they should be pulled over. He also explained that the city is investing in wireless cameras.

In addition to taking Oxycontin off the market and suggesting the community get involved, Murray said people in government subsidized housing should be drug tested and, if on drugs, removed. She also suggested increasing the drug task force.

In closing remarks, Murray also added that she hopes to work with college students if she is elected. "I would like for us to bring some of our best minds to the table and then bring some of the best minds from the country to the table."

Skiver closed by stating that some many young people can not wait to leave this area. They do not feel there is anything left here for them. He commented that may be true, but there is so much the area has such as its history, river and mountains. These should be used to build a future.

More information about Mayor Kalb's plans can be found at [www.keepkalb-mayor.com](http://www.keepkalb-mayor.com). More information about Jane Murray can be found at [JaneMurrayForMayor.com](http://JaneMurrayForMayor.com).