

Colleen Lambert's Bio

Beach Haven has always been part of my life: for the first 5 yrs my family summered here at my grandmother's old Victorian on the corner of 2nd St and Beach Ave. My family moved here permanently in 1959 and I have been privileged to call Beach Haven home ever since. I have 4 siblings and we're all proud graduates of Beach Haven Elementary School and Southern Regional High School. My parents were both Health and Physical Education teachers at Southern as well.

In 1976 I graduated from West Chester State College with a degree in Health and Physical Education. After teaching for a half year in Hammonton, NJ, I was hired by the Stafford Township School District where I taught elementary PE for 32 yrs. During that time I was an active union member and held numerous positions in that capacity which I feel will help me as a Council member, should I be elected.

In addition to my teaching career I've held several other jobs, such as a waitressing for many years at Howards and at the Village Pub, before becoming a sales clerk at A Summer Place, an art gallery and gift store on 5th St and Bay Ave. In 1987 my Mother and I bought the business which gives me a greater understanding of how our town's businesses operate and the challenges they face. This is particularly true since the water pollution crisis hit the year we opened and the next 2 summers were so meager we decided to close after the 1989 season.

I've also held several community positions such as LBI girls' softball coach and official, Police Athletic League assistant director, Sunday School teacher at the Kynett United Methodist Church where I'm still an active member and a member of the BH Tennis Committee where I'm proud to say we recently donated approximately \$11,000 in fundraiser money toward equipment, supplies and trees for the BH tennis courts. Again, I think these activities demonstrate my ability to work well with others along with my interest and caring for the people of Beach Haven.

Since retiring I've enjoyed my favorite hobbies which include travel, tennis, reading and bike riding. I was determined to relax and enjoy an easy, uncomplicated retirement but things changed several years ago with the implementation of the new redevelopment plan. Oversized buildings, inadequate parking and generous concessions to out of town developers shocked and disturbed me to the point where I could no longer sit on the sidelines. I feel that we were all attracted to Beach Haven in the first place for its laid back charm, sea shore atmosphere and family entertainment. Sadly, the path we're on now seems to be taking us in a completely different direction which really concerns me, and that's the main reason for my candidacy. Development is certainly an integral part of any town's future and Beach Haven is no exception. My goal is to see responsible development so this town will be a place we are proud of 20 yrs from now and one in which we all still wish to live. As my childhood friend's mother used to say: "Do you know how lucky you are to grow up in God's backyard?" That's what I want for today's children and their families, residents and visitors alike: a town that embraces the future but is still true to its past.