



Meet Maurice

Maurice Carter was born in Atlanta, GA in 1959 and raised in north DeKalb County, where he graduated from Peachtree High School in 1977. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Georgia State University in 1981, he married Covington native Kim Capes the following summer.

Though their professional lives would take them far from Newton County – and occasionally far from Georgia – Maurice and Kim knew they would return one day to the town where Kim’s past was deeply rooted and the couple’s future was firmly pointed.

Maurice spent his youth in the Atlanta suburbs, but felt connected to Covington from his first visit. Walking through the Covington Square reminds him of childhood summers with grandparents in his father’s South Georgia hometown of Baxley, where a trip to the dime store on Main Street was a weekly adventure.

Maurice has worked 31 years as an information technology specialist and consultant. After 14 years in banking, he joined IBM in 1996 as a business and technology consultant, where he remains employed today. Maurice has travelled extensively in his career, both domestically and internationally. He has led global teams of up to 270 people and managed annual budgets in excess of \$120 million. On a recent assignment, Maurice was executive delivery leader for an advanced technology project with staff in 16 countries, 11 time zones, and 72 locations. He has been recognized globally with the Professional Excellence Award from the IBM Project Management Center of Excellence and has twice received the IBM Leadership Award.

In 2005, Maurice and Kim fulfilled a decades-old dream by moving back to Covington, where they both became engaged citizens with a passion for community service. Kim was elected Mayor of the City of Covington in 2007 and served from 2008-2011.

Maurice serves on the board of several local non-profits, including Newton Trails (past Chairman), Smart Growth Newton County, and the Tourism Committee of the Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce. He previously spent four years as a board member for the Washington Street Community Center and is past president of the Covington Conyers Cycling Club.

In 2009 and 2010, Maurice was recognized for his community service with The President’s Volunteer Service Award from the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation. The Covington News designated Maurice as one of ten “Men of Newton County” in the 2009 edition of its annual section recognizing those who “make significant contributions to the community.”

Since April 2012, Maurice has written a weekly opinion column for the Covington News.

This July, Maurice and Kim celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary. When not working, writing, or attending board meetings, Maurice relaxes by bicycling, playing the guitar, cooking, gardening, walking the dog, and sharing quality time with family and friends.

Why Vote for Maurice

The Covington we know and love exists because generations of citizens cared enough to get involved. Wise leaders planned for our future and inspired others to make that vision reality.

I'm running for city council because I don't see that same community vision or forward-thinking leadership today. Instead of proactive plans for our future, we have reactive governing that – no matter how well-intentioned – avoids pressing issues and ignores great opportunities.

Yesterday's achievements brought us to today, but they won't carry us to tomorrow. Our elected leaders must keep us moving forward by addressing current challenges and forging a shared vision and clear plans for our future.

Like every small town, our downtown is at risk. When a business shutter its doors, we lose a piece of our heart. Despite the good life many of us enjoy, 25% of Covington's residents live below the poverty level. And, 65% of students in our schools are classified as "economically disadvantaged, receiving free or reduced price lunches.

These facts don't define who we are, but they cloud how we're viewed by businesses asked to invest here. Left unaddressed, these issues limit our future possibilities.

Some want to keep things just as they are, but nothing stands still. We can't pull over and park on the road of life. Our future prosperity lies on the road ahead, not in the rearview mirror. Young people are our future. Yet, lacking options to stay here, high school seniors with educational opportunities are bound for careers and lives elsewhere.

The Covington I envision is a complete community with economic opportunity and quality of life choices for the best and brightest of our young people to make a life and raise a family here. It's a community with a unique sense of place to attract employers with high paying jobs and entrepreneurs looking to start a retail business.

Our small town charm, rich history, and cinematic streetscapes set us apart. Interstate access, a regional airport, strong corporate citizens, and local colleges are great assets for tackling the issues holding us back. But, it takes clear vision, focused plans, and deliberate action to leverage them.

The issues are real, but the upside's there if we work together. I will put growing our local economy, enhancing quality of life, and building a sustainable future at the top of my to-do list. There are no simple solutions, but progress requires doing something meaningful every day.

Meeting challenges and embracing opportunities are the hallmarks of good leadership. I'm up to the task. Let's get started!