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### Winter Park candidates discuss how city should grow

#### Contenders for 2 open seats push their visions for city

By Rich McKay, Orlando Sentinel

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#### Seat 3

Winter Park's election is again dominated by polarizing issues about how the city should grow.

Winter Park planning board member Carolyn Cooper, 57, faces construction company owner David Lamm, 47, for Seat 3.

Of all the candidates, Cooper has been the most vocal in recent years, noted for her fierce opposition to the ill-fated Carlisle building. The city approved the four-story condo-retail project on the west side of Park Avenue. But it became a lightning rod for criticism as factions fought over the scale and character of new buildings downtown. In 2007 the city paid about \$3.7 million for the developers to go away.

Cooper said the city needs to be cautious about how its downtown is developed, but that she's not a nay-sayer on all development. She said she's only "anti-development" when it comes to one building — The Carlisle.

She said she would like to see large building developments near highways, and she supports fire assessment fees to help the city shore up its budget.

Lamm wants to see the city's development rules loosened.

"The biggest reason I'm running is that the city is going backward, not forward," he said. "The city is telling everyone what they can't do [build], not what they can do."

He said the permitting process should be made easier and faster. He said that he was in favor of The Carlisle, but qualified his statement by adding, "I liked its original concept."

Lamm said the city needs to study where it can best grow within the current boundaries and advertise those places to developers. "We have to show that we are welcoming," he said.

#### Seat 4

