

Alvis Smith III is running for a second term on Tribal Council. One of the big accomplishments of his three years on the Twenty-Ninth Tribal Council has been working successfully on the organization budget, now balanced. Another major project was reopening Kah-Nee-Ta Hot Springs Resort, a development with the support of the majority of the tribal community. This created over 70 new local good-paying jobs, many ncarried by tribal members.

Still, there is more to do, for instance a residential treatment center on the reservation. "Alcoholism has been a problem ever since it was introduced, and there are new drugs that come into our community," Councilman Smith said.

Education of the young people is a highest priority, and the tribes' work with the school district has been encouraging, such as the Native American room at the high school, "helping to make our students feel at home there." A high school on the reservation is a possibility in the future, though in the meantime providing the trained workers to build the school are a priority.

Raised on the reservation, he is the father of eight children, four daughters and four sons, and married to wife Vivian for 25 years. Councilman Smith is an Army veteran, following two years of college, and a long work experience in the construction field.

His work with tribal Utilities allows the Councilman to be in communication with the community, the most important part of the Tribal Council job, he says. He coaches football, Little League and basketball, "and this helps me communicate with the community," Smith says.

And the Confederated Tribes have many resources to work with in creating a better future for the community.