

The organizer

Day-Cobb likes fast pace of police business; keeps department rolling

By Robbie Robertson

Roller skates should be standard issue for Lisa Day-Cobb, administrative assistant for the Morrisville Police Department.

Day-Cobb handles everything from filing to finances to phones, and nearly everything in between.

"I'm Bruce's left-hand man," Day-Cobb says of her boss, Bruce Newnam, chief of the Morrisville Police Department.

"It's never dull around here," she adds. "It's never boring."

In addition to the regular run-of-the-mill administrative duties, Day-Cobb is also the department's finance manager, fund-raiser and the interior decorator for the new police station scheduled to begin construction next year.

She also purchases everything from pens and paper to vehicles and compiles the budget and presents it to the town board.

"That's probably my highest responsibility," she says.

In addition to spending money, Day-Cobb's in charge of collecting it...in the form of donations for a needy Morrisville family.

The police department has adopted a mother and six children for whom officers have collected the food, clothing and toys. The department stepped in when the father stopped supporting the family, she



A NEW PROJECT—When police move into a new station sometime next year, administrative assistant Lisa Day-Cobb will have the task of choosing the fixtures and colors. She says of her job that she's "Police Chief Bruce Newnam's left-hand man."

added.

When the holidays are over, Day-Cobb has the new police station to look forward to.

Commissioners recently award a \$677,749 bid to build the 4,100-square-foot station. Work is expected to begin in early 1997.

Day-Cobb will be in charge of decorating and outfitting the new building, which is four times the size of the current station on Page

Street.

"Our reports are still handwritten," Day-Cobb says, adding that may change with new computers.

When things get dull around the office, Day-Cobb accompanies officers on their patrols.

"I stay in the car," Day-Cobb says. "They won't let me get out."

A two-way radio links her with the officers when they are out, but Day-Cobb says she doesn't worry about being alone in the office.

Each radio has an orange emergency button that warns every officer in Morrisville when one of them is in danger. But Day-Cobb says she's never had to use it.

She also keeps the K-9 unit's dog, Gray, handy. The fierce-looking German Shepherd hangs out under a desk or in a back office.

The department does not issue her a gun, but Day-Cobb says she could exercise her Constitutional right to carry one "like any other law-abiding citizen."

"I don't generally worry about it too much," she adds.

While Morrisville may be a quiet town most of the time, Day-Cobb took it upon herself to liven things up for Christmas.

Day-Cobb directed and organized Morrisville's first-ever Christmas parade.

Day-Cobb says she began her phone calls back in early March. The workload steadily increased throughout the year.

"The last three months it was an every-three-day thing," she says. "And the last month it was an every-day thing."

Around 39 or 40 floats participated in the parade, and Day-Cobb says she hopes more will sign up next year.

The only drawback to the parade, from her standpoint, was remaining so much behind the scenes that she couldn't ride her horse.

"That was the only disappointment," she said.

While the workload may seem overwhelming, she does receive help, from other officers and interns from N.C. State University.

"I had lots of help with my parade," she says.

"It's a good program for them," Day-Cobb says of the political science and criminal justice majors who pass through her doors each semester.

"They get exposure to the job without the danger."

With or without additional help, Day-Cobb says she enjoys her job.

"I've always been hyper," she says. "I'm real hands-on. I like to get in and take charge."

Intruder surprises Carpenter couple

By Roxanne Powers

Shortly after Thanksgiving, Mitch and Betty Petway of Carpenter had an unusual visitor. Mitch happened to be out of the house, and Betty was upstairs when she heard a loud crash. Prepared to deal with an unwelcome intruder, Betty flew down the stairs and came eye to eye with a deer.

"It was obvious that he came in through the carport doors and leaped over the kitchen bar, because he left a track of blood and fur on it," she said. Asked how many points the buck had, Betty replied, "I wasn't exactly in the mood for counting them. I just made my way across the room, and propped a door open so he could leave."

Leave, he did. But the jokes have remained, and the good-natured Petways seem to enjoy them. They share with friends and neighbors that Kevin Rhew, an avid deer hunter (and quick thinker as well) asked for permission to place his deer stand on their chimney, and still others wonder if the deer was just mistaken about the kind of

Dear that Betty Petway is.

Still others speculate about the purpose of the buck's visit. Some think that because it is rutting season, the macho, fighting side of the buck came out when he saw his own reflection in the glass of the storm door. Others might guess that because it was just one month before Christmas, he was one of Santa's team of reindeer out on a trial run. You know, maybe those airport lights really could throw a deer's navigational abilities off.

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