North Carolina

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45 apply for city manager position

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT

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Last Friday was the deadline to apply for a position as Roxboro's city manager, and 45 people are seeking the job.

Advertisements for the position ran from April, shortly after former manager Jon Barlow resigned, until July 15. The city advertised in the League of Municipalities' newsletter, Southern Cities, and in

Mayor Samuel Spencer said, during last week's regular city council meeting, that council members should pick up packages of applications to review on this week.

A meeting was set for Tuesday, July 26, for council members and the mayor to meet and discuss the applications.

Spencer told *The Courier-Times* earlier that he and council would first narrow the field down to those candidates they believed to be most qualified.

Once the finalists are chosen, they will then interview with council members and

Spencer has said that he and council members believed it best not to look at any of the applications until after the deadline had passed. He said council members did not want to possibly form opinions about candidates before being able to look at the qualifications of all applicants.

The mayor has said the city would be looking for experience and relevant education as the top criteria for a new manager.

Spencer stressed that the city would be "very careful in looking at the qualifications, to see if the applicant meets the desires of the entire council.

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Roxboro formulates water shortage plan

C-T STAFF WRITER oboatwright@roxboro-courier.com

The City of Roxboro, under mandate by the state, had to formulate a Water Shortage Response Plan to address water supply in times of drought.

Interim City Manager Tommy Warren said, following adoption of the plan by the city council, "We are not planning on having to implement it any time soon.

Andy Oakley, city public services director, presented the plan at last week's regular July meeting of council. He said the response plan had to be developed to comply with North Carolina General Statute

The statute is a result of the drought of 2008, when city water supplies across the state were critically short. The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) mandated the plans.

Oakley said DENR wanted each municipality to have a minimum response plan should water supplies run low. And, said Oakley, if other municipalities in the region should initiate water restrictions, Roxboro would have to do so as well, even if the city's supply was not in jeopardy.

According to the water supply shortage plan, the city manager could declare a state of emergency if the availability and supply of water is "critical so that a mechanical malfunction or breakdown of the city's pumps or rapid draw down of the water supply would so deplete the water supply and availability of water as to threaten or cause to threaten the availability of water for human consumption, for firefighting purposes and other protection of lives and property, and the conservation of water is necessary in order to protect lives, safety and property within the city."

Should the manager declare a state of emergency, he or she must issue a public proclamation regarding water usage and supply, specifying authorized uses, as well as limitations and restrictions of water use by residential, business and commercial water custom-

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There she blows!

Ricky Kendrick with the City of Roxboro opens a hydrant on Critcher-Wilkerson Road Tuesday. Interim City Manager Tommy Warren said the flushing is being done this week to improve water quality and to comply with North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Public Health requirements. Flushing helps maintain water quality throughout the system. The flushing will go on for several weeks, and may cause water to become cloudy or stained. The water will not become unsafe, Warren said, but citizens should be careful when doing laundry because discolored water can affect light colored materials. Some sediment within the system may become dislodged and could stop up water fixtures, Warren cautioned. Water customers may need to remove and clean strainers and filters if this occurs. Any water customer wishing to report discolored water should call the water treatment plant at 336-599-5658.

Person Board of Elections members sworn in Tuesday

BY GREY PENTECOST

C-T STAFF WRITER greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

Having all been reappointed to their positions, Person County's Board of Elections members were sworn in Tuesday afternoon.

Appointed to her fourth term, board chairman Jacqueline Booker said she likes seeing the elections process done legally, with "honest" results.

"I truly have enjoyed it," said Booker. "I've always been interested in government. I've worked with the board of elections directly and indirectly since the early '70s.'

In 2009 Booker became a certified North Carolina elections official, marking the first time a member of the Person County Board of Elections had achieved the designation.

Rosalie Gates was appointed to her third term on the board this week.

She shared, "I feel that it's an honor and a privilege to serve on the board of elections. I'm

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Deborah Barker administers the oath of office to the reappointed members of the Person County Board of Elections Tuesday. Board members are, (I to r) Rosalie Gates, Gerry O'Neil and Jacqueline Booker.

Courthouse being made handicap accessible

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT

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Folks riding down Main Street in Roxboro, and especially those trying to gain access to the Person County Courthouse via the front door, are probably wondering just what's taking place on the front lawn of the courthouse.

Ray Foushee, county general services director, said this week that the work being done at the front of the courthouse is one part of the \$2.5 million renovation project that began last

C.T.Wilson, from Durham, is the general contractor for the job. Foushee said, "Since we are renovating the courthouse, we are required to make it handicap accessible. The front walkway had to be partially widened to allow for a wheelchair ramp, in addition to the standard steps and platform.'

Foushee added, "Planters will be built along the new entrance way to beautify the area."

Currently, said Foushee, the second floor (old part of the courthouse) is also being completely renovated, "so it was only appropriate to renovate the front walkway at the same time."

Foushee said that the walkway phase of the work was scheduled for completion by Aug. 1, "and citizens will again be able to access the courthouse via the front entrance.'

The entire courthouse renovation project is scheduled to be complete by early October of this year, Foushee said.



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