

ELECTIONS 2003

The Daily Tar Heel readers submitted the following letters to the editor in support of candidates running in Tuesday's elections. More letters can be found at www.dailytarheel.com.

Residents weigh in on council race

Bachman would bring fresh ideas to town development

TO THE EDITOR:

UNC students, faculty and staff have an important opportunity to vote for a candidate for the Chapel Hill Town Council who will act effectively on their concerns.

Dianne Bachman brings more than 10 years of community leadership experience, along with a balanced perspective on community and University affairs. She will ensure that town-gown relations are based on mutual trust and open communications.

Dianne is an architect who has led the Chapel Hill Community Design Commission and the Community Appearance Commission, as well as serving on the Design Review Board and the Downtown Small Area Plan Work Group.

She supports a state-of-the-art transportation solution for Carolina North and an incentive-based program for revitalizing downtown, including affordable housing.

I have worked extensively with Dianne and can vouch for the depth of her concern for people, neighborhoods, the environment and sustainable design.

Please consider voting for Dianne Bachman on Tuesday.

David R. Godschalk
Professor
City and Regional Planning

Experience working with town, University an asset of Bachman

TO THE EDITOR:

Dianne Bachman is the candidate for Chapel Hill Town Council who has the training, background and experience to bring the town to the table as an equal partner with the University. Her understanding of both systems and the need for quality planning are skills sorely need in discussions between the town and UNC. Early communication and collaboration on all University projects are a far better approach than late-stage reaction to already entrenched plans. A "just say no" attitude does not work.

An architect by training, Dianne has given 10 years of her experience to town boards. An SPA state employee for five years, she manages already approved projects on the main UNC campus. Dianne's SPA employee status means she cannot be fired unless she is convicted of a crime.

She will fearlessly and proactively represent the town and its needs. She knows how both systems work; she knows how to approach planning problems; she knows how to create consensus. Electing Dianne means the town's best interests will be protected

from the get-go.

First on the Tuesday ballot, vote Bachman.

Edie Salmony
Chapel Hill

Greene would bring expertise in wide set of areas to council

TO THE EDITOR:

I write this letter in support of Sally Greene for Chapel Hill Town Council. Sally and I served on the Planning Board together for several years, she as vice chairwoman during my last year on the board as chairwoman.

In those capacities, we were afforded the opportunity to discuss all aspects of the social, environmental and business issues affecting residents of Chapel Hill.

Sally demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the ideals of a diverse community, affordable housing, protection of the environment, protection of existing neighborhoods and a strong downtown for Chapel Hill. She did this in two primary ways.

First, on Planning Board recommendations to the council, she consistently voted for programs and projects that expanded housing options for all residents of Chapel Hill and for new Land-Use Management Ordinance provisions that will help create Neighborhood Conservation Districts and stronger environmental protection regulations.

Second, Sally shared with the Planning Board and council the benefits of her own legal research and analysis capabilities by finding examples of how other communities had successfully incorporated new regulations to achieve some of the same goals that Chapel Hill has enumerated in its newly adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Her work on these items — and her presentation of these items to the Planning Board and council in public work sessions — helped the council adjust portions of the "draft" ordinances and make them truly applicable to Chapel Hill.

I believe Sally Greene will be an outstanding council member and ask you to vote for her on Election Day, Tuesday.

Scott Radway
Immediate Past Chairman
Chapel Hill Planning Board

Hill would help bridge town's past and future on council

TO THE EDITOR:

Cam Hill is one of the people I am voting for in the upcoming Chapel Hill Town Council election.

I have gotten to know Cam well by working with him on the Horace

Williams Citizens Committee. This work has made me especially appreciative of the qualities he will bring to the council. He took his job seriously and was very thorough in his reading of the many documents necessary to understand the issues. His comments and questions reflected this thoroughness. His suggestions helped shape our report to the council. He listened well to comments from others.

But first and foremost, Cam Hill recognizes the problems that Chapel Hill faces with continued growth. He understands the issue of affordable housing, having lived in an area of affordable houses for years. As a native of Chapel Hill, he has seen changes and knows that the town has retained some of its earlier charm but has also lost some of that charm.

He knows that it won't be easy to preserve the quality of life that we still enjoy in our town and neighborhoods. He knows that that charm helps graduates choose to remain here and that others expect it when they return to visit.

I believe that Cam Hill will be a council member who will work hard and vote to support the best possible quality of life in Chapel Hill and will work hard and vote to preserve our increasingly fragile environment and natural resources.

Joyce Brown
Chapel Hill

McSwain to add much-needed student voice on town council

TO THE EDITOR:

I write to endorse Mike McSwain for Chapel Hill Town Council. As a senior at UNC, Mike understands and will best represent the 25,000 students whose daily lives revolve around this community. As a close personal friend, I can attest to Mike's love of Chapel Hill. Most of us see Chapel Hill as a stopping point only, a wonderful place that we will long remember. Mike sees it differently. This town is truly Mike's home — and he is committed to making it a better place.

Too many in Chapel Hill view its businesses as a liability, not an essential part of a successful community. Unfortunately, this view has led to the many closed storefronts and the general decline of Franklin Street.

Mike promises to lead a drive for sustainability, incorporating the values cherished by residents and the desperate need for economic vitality.

Mike has already worked to improve town-gown relations and will be a voice of sensibility on University growth and needs.

And who better than a student to represent the thousands of renters and riders of public transportation?

Sherri Toler Murrell
Chapel Hill

Students want to live in a community with good housing and transportation.

Students want a vibrant downtown. Students need a strong voice on the Town Council. Students are so important to this community, but so few among us work to make this a better town. It's high time we speak out and put one of our own on Chapel Hill's Town Council.

Steve Russell
UNC Law

Strom works hard to balance, protect interest issues in town

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm writing in support of Bill Strom for Chapel Hill Town Council and to urge your readers to vote for Bill on Tuesday.

Four years ago, the citizens of Chapel Hill wisely elected Bill to the council and, as he promised to do, Bill has worked hard and effectively for the people of Chapel Hill.

Amid cries of "no growth" (or no change) from some in our community and pressures from developers, the University and the business community, Bill has effectively advocated for a progressive and practical approach to issues facing Chapel Hill.

Bill understands that change is inevitable and that we can either participate in and shape that change or sit back, bemoan the change and have little or no impact on the future of Chapel Hill.

With this in mind, Bill has advocated a proactive, long-term approach to planning that puts us in control of change rather than a reactionary one that leads to haphazard decision-making.

Bill is not a single-issue council member and understands the importance of balancing competing community interests. He has successfully advocated for more affordable housing in Chapel Hill, led the way on environmental issues, successfully argued for making the town bus service free (thus increasing its ridership), worked to preserve more green space and advocated for a mixed-use development plan for downtown Chapel Hill designed to revitalize the downtown area.

While representing the people of Chapel Hill, Bill has not backed down from tough issues or from powerful community forces, including the University.

Bill's hardworking, mature and courageous leadership has been a great asset to Chapel Hill, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant.

Sherri Toler Murrell
Chapel Hill

Support bonds, Faley at the polls on Tuesday

TO THE EDITOR:

Voters in Chapel Hill have a unique opportunity on Tuesday to invest in the town's future.

In addition to the important Chapel Hill Town Council elections, there are five bond referendums on the ballot which, if passed, will fund a much-needed expansion of the Chapel Hill Public Library, speed up the construction and repair of sidewalks, purchase open space and greenways and make town buildings more energy-efficient.

Investing in Chapel Hill means supporting the public library that circulates more books per person than any other in the state.

It means creating a more walkable town with more space for jogging and throwing Frisbees. It means, even if you are a student who doesn't plan to stay in Chapel Hill after graduation, that you are leaving a better Chapel Hill for future UNC students.

It means supporting all five bonds and getting to the polls on Tuesday.

Jessica Kem
Graduate Student
School of Information and Library Science

TO THE EDITOR:

Please vote to re-elect Board of Education member Gloria Faley on Tuesday. Faley has served on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education since 1998. She always has been a strong supporter of the schools. She has worked diligently on additional high school capacity, efforts to close the achievement gap, curriculum alignment, opposition to the school merger and the Schools Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

Gloria has served on the committee to plan for schools and parks at the Eubanks Road site and has worked hard to educate the community about the need to pass our bond referendums for school maintenance and construction, as well as parks, senior centers and affordable housing. Gloria Faley listens to all CHCCS students, parents and teachers and works tirelessly to represent them. Please join me in re-electing Gloria Faley on Nov. 4.

Judy Margolis
Chapel Hill

TO THE EDITOR:

We need to re-elect Gloria Faley to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education. She has worked tirelessly since 1998 on a number of projects. She helped put together a plan for minority achievement, providing support for early education and transition from middle to high school. Another project eliminated gaps and redundancies in curriculum alignment. Gloria also has worked worked on high school reform: relationship advocacy, scheduling, developing small learning environments and school-to-career programs. Currently, she is helping to make the needed third high school a reality for our district.

Gloria has been passionate about helping all students succeed and about maintaining facilities so that learning is the priority. That is why we need Gloria Faley to be re-elected to the CHCCS School Board on (or before by absentee ballot) Tuesday.

Nancy Tannenbaum
Chapel Hill

Experience, fresh ideas define council race

Candidates add progressive ideas

TO THE EDITOR:

At the candidates forum sponsored this week by student government and The Daily Tar Heel, all 11 candidates in attendance talked about what they would do to engage students in town decision-making processes if they were elected.

Only two candidates, however, talked about what they had already done to include students in their service to the town. Those candidates, incumbent Bill Strom and Planning Board Vice Chairwoman Sally Greene, have shown time and again their commitment to representing student interests, and that's why they'll receive my support on Tuesday.

Reaching out to students alone would not qualify them to serve on the council. We need representatives who will lead Chapel Hill in a progressive direction as pressing issues of growth and explosion of housing prices threaten the natural beauty and diversity that make UNC a great place to go to school. Strom and Greene have been extremely strong advocates for the environment and affordable housing, and that has been reflected in the endorsements they have received from the Sierra Club and the Friends of Affordable Housing.

Because of the combination of their experience, progressive activism and efforts to reach out to students, Strom and Greene have been endorsed by the only official UNC student organization working in this election, Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill. I hope you'll join me and the rest of the members of that organization in casting a vote for Strom and Greene on Nov. 4.

Tom Jensen
Chairman
Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill

Support bonds, Strom and Freund

TO THE EDITOR:

I urge all voters to support all five bonds. In particular, the sidewalk and greenway bonds will greatly enhance the pedestrian infrastructure. The benefits that these improvements will provide will not only be immediately felt but will accrue over time as Chapel Hill continues to mature.

I also endorse Bill Strom and Thatcher Freund for the Chapel Hill Town Council. Bill's tireless achievements in his tenure as on the council are impressive, and can be examined at www.stromforcouncil.com. Perhaps as important, though, has been his willingness to delve deep into matters rather than merely skimming the surface.

Like Bill, Thatcher is committed to smart planning issues, and promises independent thinking and hard nosed dedication. His Web site is www.thatcherfreund.com.

Wayne Pein
Chapel Hill

Trio stands out in council race

TO THE EDITOR:

Three candidates for Town Council stand head and shoulders above the pack: Bill Strom, Sally Greene and Cam Hill.

These three take action where others mouth platitudes. There is a lot of rhetoric flying around now. Some suggest that there is no conflict between responsible town representation and University affiliation. Perhaps, but look at the records of the current candidates.

While Greene, Hill and Strom have demonstrated concern and affection for both Chapel Hill and the University, they have also shown that they have the back-

bone to stand up for what they believe will be best for the whole community, including the University community. Other candidates have not done that.

We have been burned before by unfulfilled promises. Please, before it is too late, elect Hill, Greene and Strom to the Chapel Hill Town Council. Also, please vote for all of the bonds.

Dana Whittinghill Steele
Chapel Hill

Candidates' actions speak loudly

TO THE EDITOR:

Chapel Hill and the University both need a Town Council made up of people who care about both sides of the town-UNC relationship and who are able to negotiate together without attacking one another.

Bill Strom, Sally Greene, Cam Hill and Andrea Rohrbacher can do that. They have already demonstrated it by their public actions over the years. Their kind of forward-looking participation is essential on the council over the next crucial years.

Please vote for them. That's Strom, Greene, Hill and Rohrbacher.

Diana Steele
Class of 1956
Chapel Hill

Many issues at stake in local races

TO THE EDITOR:

This year's local elections offer voters some important choices in our community's leadership. The towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro have made important progress in managing growth, supporting affordable housing, investing in our community and taking principled stands on

issues of concern to our state and nation. However, we have also made some mistakes.

Chapel Hill has been sliding down a slippery slope from progressive small town to bland suburban enclave. Recently, our Chapel Hill Town Council has begun to legislate nonissues, such as fires in bars and red-light running. With the largest single development in the history of our town looming at Carolina North, can this possibly be best use of the council's time?

Since we do not get a choice about our mayor this year, it is vitally important that we express our values by electing strong leaders for the Town Council. Please join me in voting for Sally Greene, Bill Strom and Cam Hill — three leaders with strength, vision and good ideas.

Also, I would ask my neighbors in Carrboro to vote for Mark Chilton and the two incumbent aldermen as well as Mayor Mike Nelson to continue Carrboro's role as a progressive leader of communities in the South.

Please allow me allow me to take up some additional newsprint here to invite readers to research their votes online. I have collected and posted candidates' web addresses at <http://OrangePolitics.org>, a new Web site where folks can read about and engage in discussion of local issues.

Ruby Sinreich
Chapel Hill

Ideas on town development key

TO THE EDITOR:

As plans for Carolina North and other University projects begin to move into the public sector, the choice of the four people to be elected to the Chapel Hill Town Council tomorrow is critical to both the

Art Werner
Former Town Council Member