

City

Town council race spurs issue debate

By JESSICA LANNING
Assistant City Editor

Issues ranging from the environment to traffic congestion to zoning issues are being debated as three incumbent council members and three other candidates compete for the four positions available in the Nov. 7 Chapel Hill Town Council race.

Incumbent Art Werner is running for his second term on the town council and believes the council still has a long way to go in improving Chapel Hill government.

"I think there are a lot of things that need to get done," he said. "After being on there one term, I think I can be pretty effective to make sure some of those things get done."

Implementing the comprehensive plan, making zoning decisions, deciding on a public facilities ordinance, making decisions about solid waste disposal and the landfill, working to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution and finding more affordable housing are just some of the issues the new city council will address.

Werner, vice president of the Chapel Hill division of Alliance Technologies, admitted he does not see any "hot issues" in this election, but he said "one never knows" what will come up by November.

Incumbent Julie Andresen, also running for her second term this November, said she enjoys public service and particularly local government.

"I think it's important to make a contribution to the place you live,"

she said. "Now I'd like to put my good experience to good use."

The quality of life, taxes and bond referendums are issues Andresen said will be important in this election. Drinking water and pollution problems are other key issues.

Andresen ran against Jonathan Howes two years ago for mayor, but chose not to enter the mayoral race this year for personal reasons. "I need to pay attention to my career. I think Mayor Howes has done a reasonably good job as mayor."

David Pasquini, another incumbent, will also run for re-election and a third term on the council. He said a possible tax increase "and how to manage the government so you don't have a tax increase" are problems facing the council.

The environment, University and town relations, the budget, land use, affordable housing, transportation and building stronger working relationships with Carrboro are also key issues this year, Pasquini said.

David Godschalk is the only council member who chose not to run for re-election this year and plans to leave his council position in November. Godschalk has served one four-year term and nine months on the council after being appointed to replace a deceased member.

"I just thought it was time to let someone else get a crack at council," he said.

Besides Howes, Godschalk is the only member on the council who works for the University and the

town, but Godschalk said his leaving the council would not affect University-town relations. "We're on a good path in terms of relationships. This is the best we've been in a long time."

UNC Hospitals Executive Director Eric Munson announced Tuesday that he would withdraw from the race because of the time commitment involved. With his job at the hospital and responsibility to his family, he said he would be unable to participate effectively on the council.

Alan Rimer, chairman of the Chapel Hill Planning Board, has also thrown his hat into the ring of candidates for the four open seats.

Rimer said his experience on the planning board could bring a new perspective to the issues and a council position would allow him to follow up on projects he worked on previously.

Rimer is the principal engineer at Alliance Technologies and also teaches one graduate course a year on site planning at UNC. Because he had attended all council meetings as a member of the planning board, being part of the council would not add too much time to his schedule, he said.

Students should take more interest in Chapel Hill government and should take the initiative to organize political forums to give students the opportunity to meet the candidates, Rimer said. "There are elements where students can help a lot to make the bridge between the University and the town."

Environment and transportation are

important issues in this election, he said, and there are no real solutions to these problems. "We don't want to have a city full of roads, and we don't want to inconvenience people."

Joyce Brown, another candidate running for a first term on the council, said she plans to bring a fresh view to the council debates.

"I'd like to bring my perspective to the issues," she said. "I think there are a number of things that need to be addressed in a more dynamic way."

Brown said people are alienated from the town government and more power should be given to the people.

"We need to look seriously at how we are governed," she said. "And work on ways to return decision-making power to people and the neighborhoods rather than have more decisions made by the bureaucracy and the governments."

Bill Thorpe, a former town council member, and Helen Urquhart have also filed for positions on the town council but were unable to be contacted for comment.

City Police Roundup

- In Chapel Hill
- An unidentified male appeared to be making a purchase at Top of the Hill, a convenience store on East Franklin Street, Tuesday night when he reached over the counter and took an undisclosed amount of the money from the register. The suspect fled the scene immediately. After patrolling the area and interviewing several possible witnesses, police failed to locate the suspect.
- Police were called to Tijuana Fats, a restaurant and bar on West Rosemary Street, when employees discovered Tuesday morning that the business had been robbed. The burglar apparently entered the establishment through the back door and stole an undetermined amount of money and caused an estimated \$400 in damages. Police have no suspects.
- A police officer checking

property on East Rosemary Street discovered early Wednesday morning that the traffic arm to the parking lot at Chapel Hill Realty had been broken off. Damage to the arm at the Rosemary Street entrance is estimated at \$25. Police have no suspects at this time.

- Theo Cassiter of 117 Mallette St. reported Wednesday morning that someone threw a rock through the window of his residence at 3:20 a.m. Damage to the window has been estimated at \$150, and no suspect has been found.

- A woman reported Tuesday afternoon that an unknown male grabbed her as she was walking on West Franklin Street near Kenan Street and demanded her purse. The suspect fled when the woman told him she did not have a purse. Police do not have a suspect.

— compiled by Charles Brittain

Town council seeks airport limits

By BLAKE DICKINSON
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill Town Council members decided unanimously this week to ask for a meeting with UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin to discuss placing restrictions on the use of Horace Williams Airport.

The council members voted to send a delegation to talk with Hardin about limitations recommended by the group Citizens for Airport Planning. These requests include restricting airport usage to UNC and Health Education Center medical planes, increasing a fee for aircraft based at Horace Williams, prohibiting nighttime landings and privatizing the airport.

"I think it's important that we start to discuss this matter with the university," council member David Pasquini said. Pasquini sponsored the resolution along with members Julie Andresen and Nancy Preston.

Andresen and Pasquini join Mayor Jonathan Howes and Town Manager David Taylor as members of a council who will meet with Hardin. No date for the proposed meeting was set this week, but council members urged that the group meet with Hardin before the Sept. 12 public hearing on the University's plans to pave an additional 500 feet of runway at Horace Williams this fall.

"What we're trying to do is get ourselves in the position to get some

restrictions . . . put on at the same time, then we feel we're destined to have a busier, noisier airport," Waldorf said.

The calls by concerned citizens and town officials to move the airport grew louder in the wake of the fatal Aug. 11 crash near Horace Williams Airport of a single-engine plane flown by a Smithfield man.

The town government has never taken an official stand on restricting or eliminating traffic at Horace Williams, and Waldorf said she welcomed the possibility.

"I think the town really has a responsibility to make a strong statement here," she said. "To be consistent with their own past actions, I think they need to stand up and make their feelings felt by the University."

An interim meeting to discuss progress since the University's July position paper has been proposed and a meeting date is set for Sept. 8 or 9, said Dr. Benjamin Tuchi, new vice chancellor for business and finance.

"Our expectation is that traffic will not increase and we are not about to do anything to foster an increase," Tuchi said.

On the surface, he said, it might appear that adding 500 feet to the runway would increase usage of the airport, "but I think that is a simplistic notion."

Rematch under way in Carrboro mayoral race

By TRACY LAWSON
Staff Writer

In a rematch of the 1987 Carrboro mayoral elections, incumbent Eleanor Kinnaird and former mayor Jim Porto are both actively campaigning in an attempt to win the votes of UNC students in Carrboro.

Both Kinnaird and Porto admit they hope to win the votes of UNC students by addressing issues pertaining to town transportation and representation in town government.

Kinnaird plans to run this campaign much like her 1987 bid for mayor by focusing on the direction of the town under the leadership of the mayor and drawing attention to three issues that are of particular interest to University students in Carrboro.

"One issue I plan to focus on is adequate transportation to campus. During my first term I got the Board of Aldermen to approve two new buses," she said. "One bus runs from

Highland Hills apartments and the other is an express bus that runs from Plantation Plaza and only stops at two apartment buildings."

Kinnaird also plans to focus on dealing with the flow of traffic through Carrboro by developing more bicycle paths through downtown.

"Since there are many bicyclists in Carrboro, I would like to see six-foot bicycle paths on both sides of the three main streets in town," Kinnaird said.

More progress on plans for a proposed Carrboro bypass is another important aspect of Kinnaird's re-election campaign.

Kinnaird will use her campaign to address the importance of students' registering to vote and believes students should take a more active role in Carrboro government.

Porto, who served as Carrboro's mayor from 1983-1987, is the candidate challenging Kinnaird in an

attempt to regain his position. He encourages students to become involved in this race.

It is important for students to get involved in the interests of the town they live in, he said. "During the four, six or even eight years students are at the University, they become a part of the community."

Stressing the importance of student involvement, Porto said all Carrboro residents should learn what is going on within the Carrboro government and take an active part in events.

Porto also said he was willing to work with students to help them organize themselves to get their views heard.

"Right now the town is working on the parking problem. What is decided will be determined by negotiations that are going on. If the students want their views known, they should try and get involved."

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