



October 2015

Northside News

A print link for neighborhoods of change



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Dear Neighbors,

All of us at the Jackson Center are excited to bring you a special issue of the Northside News that directly responds to your concerns and questions about the upcoming election. We asked each candidate for Town Council and Mayor seven questions that we've heard from you, our neighbors, and in this limited space you'll find some of their responses. You can find much more, including their full responses and links to videos of all the candidates speaking at public forums, on our website, www.jacksoncenter.info, and in print at the Jackson Center itself. So please visit us, and let us know what you think!

- The Jackson Center Team

*Acronyms to look out for: NCD=Neighborhood Conservation District, CHALT=Chapel Hill Alliance for a Livable Town. Only organizational endorsements are listed.

Candidates for Mayor

(candidate Gary Kahn did not respond to our questions)


**Mark
Kleinschmidt (Incumbent)**

Endorsed by: Sierra Club, Equality NC, Triangle Labor Council, INDY Week

Q: What is one change you hope to accomplish during your time as a town council member / mayor?

A: "It is my goal that the work on the Downtown Master Plan is done right... I want our vision of downtown to be clear. A vision that allows the town to build on the great asset of our downtown, and also provides clear direction to developers about what is expected in the spaces where downtown meets existing neighborhoods. This has to be true not only for the historic district, but for all those who call our central area home."

Q: What is your experience serving and building diverse populations?

A: My personal and professional life, as well as my work as Mayor, has been focused on serving and building diverse populations... I am proud to have been one of the attorneys who won the fight for marriage equality in North Carolina and of my support for my law partners in their fight against the racial gerrymandering we currently face in North Carolina. For example, I personally met with members of Northside to identify plaintiffs for the case against the state to challenge the Voter ID law."

Q: What is your idea of affordability, and how will you specifically support affordability in Chapel Hill?

A: "Chapel Hill should be a community where anyone who wants to live here can find a safe and affordable place to call home. It was my idea to create the Penny for Housing that commits almost \$700,000 a year to the town's affordable housing efforts. I have been the Council's strongest voice in support of collective bargaining for municipal employees and a livable wage."

✓ Mayor Kleinschmidt has supported fare free bus


**Pam
Hemminger**

Endorsed by: CHALT*, Rainbow Soccer

Q: What do you see as the most critical issues facing Northside, and what is your experience in Northside?

A: "Large new projects like Amity Station, proposed for the Breadmen's site... Some developers, like the AC Hotel at Rosemary and Church Streets...worked hard with the neighborhood to fit into the area, and [the developers] have promised to hire neighborhood residents. It's designed so it won't tower over the houses to the north, and lots of sidewalk area will make the area more inviting for pedestrians."

Q: What is your experience serving and building diverse populations?

A: "While on the school board I attended a diversity workshop offered by the Racial Equity Institute. It was one of the most powerful experiences in my life. Until you know what you don't know, you can't truly see a situation from another person's point of view. I use what I learned every day to help me do a better job for my community. As a citizen and county commissioner, I have fought for reparations for the Rogers Road Community and personally stayed with the Community Center project to help make sure it's successful..."

Q: What is one change you hope to accomplish during your time as mayor?

A: "I would like to improve communication between the mayor and Council and the people they serve. As a first step, I would set up a series of Town Hall meetings with different neighborhoods and groups to reach into the communities to hear our town's many voices and have true dialogues about how to face town-wide issues."

In the News & Observer, Hemminger stated, "I like the concept of the fare-free bus system. I think it's time to look and see if it's working for us."

Incumbent Council Members


Lee Storrow

Endorsed by: Sierra Club, Equality NC, Triangle Labor Council

Q: What do you see as the most critical issues facing Northside, and what is your experience in Northside?

A: "The increase in student rental properties... I've worked closely with Northside residents over the years, attended community outreach meetings and the annual May Day festival, and knocked on doors during the Good Neighbor Initiative. During my time on council I sat down with long-term residents like Kathy Atwater and Velma Perry to talk about neighborhood concerns."

Q: What would you like to see happen in Rogers Road in the next two years?

A: "Pay our debt to the Rogers Road neighborhood... I'm proud to have the endorsement of David Caldwell, long time Rogers Road neighbor."

Q: What neighborhood efforts do you support?

A: "One of the first votes I took as a council member was in support of amending the NCD* to strengthen it in 2012. I supported the development moratorium prior to my election."

✓ Storrow has supported fare free bus and championed affordable/senior housing on Legion Rd.


Donna Bell

Endorsed by: Sierra Club, Equality NC, Triangle Labor Council, INDY Week

Q: What is your experience serving and building diverse populations?

A: "It was during my work on the Campaign for Harvey Gantt during the 1990 election, sitting on the steps of the Chancellor's Office as Black students struggled for the creation of the Sonya Haynes Stone Center and working on the political campaign of Mark Chilton that I developed my sense of the power of political action and community building. I was a program manager for Public Allies, which was an Americorps program that offered support to young folks who wanted to serve in diverse communities for a year. Last year I, along with four Carrboro elected officials, was arrested in Raleigh. I was protesting policy decisions that were being made in our legislature that impacted the most vulnerable in our state."

Q: What is one change you hope to accomplish during your time as a town council member?

A: "Creating a more equitable relationship between our student populations and our citizens."

✓ Bell has supported fare free bus and advocated affordable housing in all new developments.


Jim Ward

Endorsed by: Sierra Club, Equality NC, Triangle Labor Council, INDY Week

Q: What is your idea of affordability and how will you specifically support affordability in Chapel Hill?

A: "Long-term residents need to be able to continue to afford to live here. Additionally, I think our housing options should closely reflect the employment opportunities in the community. For that reason, I will continue to recognize and thank UNC for what it has and is doing in this area of need, while pushing them and UNC Healthcare to do much more, as they employ many in need of better housing options, closer to where they work."

✓ Ward has supported free bus fare and "enhanced bus service in the evening and on weekends". He has also supported strong NCDs*: "For the last 16 years...I have been a strong supporter of the initial NCD process and outcome, as well as modifications made more recently." He says it's critical to continue "working everyday to make sure the Chapel Hill Police Department and Northside residents are acting in unison on the same priorities."

Q: What are the incumbents' voting records on issues related to Northside?

A: All have supported the Northside/Pine Knolls Plan, Penny for Housing, and the Northside Neighborhood Initiative.

Visit us at www.jacksoncenter.info or 512 W. Rosemary Street or call us at (919) 960-1670! Go to <http://www.jacksoncenter.info/get-involved/volunteer/> for volunteer opportunities.

Town Council Challengers



Jessica Anderson

Endorsed by: CHALT*, INDY Week

Q: What is your experience serving and building diverse populations?

A: "I have had a lifelong passion for working with diverse populations, starting with my work as an educator in diverse communities both in the United States and around the world, including Dorchester, Massachusetts; Compton and Watts, California; and rural Southern Japan ... On a more personal note, my husband and his family are from India, which has introduced diversity into my own life in the way of new traditions and culture and even in the form of my own daughter, who is of mixed race."

Q: What is one change you hope to accomplish during your time on Town Council?

A: "I am not opposed to development, but I believe we need to have development that, at a minimum, does not increase the tax burden of current residents, brings diversity and enhances inclusiveness in our community, shows us to be leaders in energy efficiency and green design models and adds or preserves public green space and places for residents of all ages to enjoy."



David Schwartz

Endorsed by: CHALT*

Q: What is one change you hope to accomplish during your time as a town council member?

A: "Build permanently affordable housing for public school teachers, restore trust between the community and town government."

Q: What is a development in Chapel Hill that you think really got it right?

A: "Pacifica co-housing, in Carrboro."

Q: What is your experience serving and building diverse populations?

A: "I have been a leader and organizer in the Little Ridgefield neighborhood where I live. The residents of the neighborhood include African-Americans and immigrants from Colombia, El Salvador, and Burma. I also volunteer at the Frank Porter Graham Elementary School, which serves a large population of native Spanish speaking residents."



Paul Neebe

Q: What is your experience serving and building diverse populations?

A: "I spent over 18 years teaching at the University of Virginia. There I worked with an extremely diverse population very successfully. In addition, I enjoy travel to many different countries and try to learn the local culture. This helps me embrace the wonderful spectrum of diversity."

Q: What is a development in Chapel Hill that you think really got it right?

A: "Southern Village is a prime example of what we got right. It is a nice balance of residential, recreation and commercial uses."

Q: What is your experience in Northside and what neighborhood efforts do you support?

A: "My experience in Northside is purchasing two foreclosed houses over 10 years ago. I try to rent to people who will enhance the family and neighborhood atmosphere."

Michael Parker Endorsed by: Sierra Club, Equality NC, Triangle Labor Council, INDY Week

Q: What is your idea of affordability, and how will you specifically support affordability in Chapel Hill?

A: "It is only when incomes reach nearly the town's median income – about \$60,000 per year, that market rate housing becomes affordable. This is a serious problem that we need to address... While [existing] policies and ordinances are commendable, we need to and can do much more. Affordable housing is a Town-wide responsibility – the Town needs to contribute resources. We also need a range of collaborations that include Chapel Hill, developers (for and not-for-profit), and UNC and UNC Health Care..."

Q: What is one change you hope to accomplish during your time as a town council member?

A: "One of my key goals, which I believe has been neglected for too long, is creation of more and better jobs. In that regards I hope the town can bring in retailers, ...[strengthen] the school system's programs to provide training for good jobs... [and] provide affordable spaces for entrepreneurial start-ups..."



Nancy Oates

Endorsed by: CHALT*

Q: What is your idea of affordability and how will you specifically support affordability in Chapel Hill?

A: "Affordability is housing suitable for the people who work here to live here... I would shift money from public art to expand bus service (so people can live without a car), and wait to renovate Town Hall until the town has paid our share of the costs for improvements in the Rogers Road area."

Q: What is a development in Chapel Hill that you think really got it right?

A: "The Glen Lennox redevelopment that preserved many affordable units for longtime tenants and the 30% of units at East 54 deeded to Community Home Trust."

Q: What is one change you hope to accomplish during your time as a town council member?

A: "Beef up the town Inspections Department so that it can enforce existing ordinances, like the 'No More Than Four' and over-parking violators."



Adam Jones

Q: What is your experience serving and building diverse populations?

A: "I have been in real estate ... for 25 years ... through my business Mill House Properties. I have dealt with modest earners and students working their way through school to successful business professionals working for Fortune 500 companies."

Q: What do you see as the most critical issues facing Northside, and what is your experience in Northside?

A: "I don't feel Northside will get the recognition it needs until the town defines the borders of Northside with columns or signage at the main entryways... 'Entering Historic Northside est. 1905?' with historic plaques just inside its borders with 'a moment in Northside history' like the state historic plaques. There are still dumpy areas in Northside where few want to live and the town needs to either acquire this land or do something to clean it up ... Mini parks of just benches and landscaping would make a big difference."



Go to Jacksoncenter.info or visit the Jackson Center at 512 W. Rosemary St to read the candidates' full responses and more!

Updated Voting Guidelines for 2015-Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd

- ✓ **Absentee Ballot** - Fill out and submit this form no later than Tuesday, October 26 to receive an absentee ballot:
 - http://www.orangecountync.gov/document_center/Elections/Absentee_Ballot_Request_Form_with_Instructions.pdf
- ✓ **Early Voting** - You can vote early at several locations and register same day from Oct. 22-31. The addresses are: Carrboro Town Hall – 301 W. Main St, Carrboro Chapel of the Cross – 304 E. Franklin St, and Seymour Senior Center – 2551 Homestead Rd.
 - These three sites will all open as follows:

October 22 nd – 12 to 7 pm	October 23 rd – 12 to 6 pm
October 24 th – 9 am to 1 pm	October 26 th through 29 th – 12 to 7 pm
October 30 th – 12 to 6 pm	October 31 st – 9 am to 1 pm
- ✓ **NO ID to vote in-person.** As long as you registered to vote at your current address at least 25 days before the election, most voters do NOT need to show an ID to vote in 2015.
- ✓ On Election Day, Tuesday Nov. 3, the polls are open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Everyone in line at 7:30 pm can vote!
- ✓ You do NOT lose your right to vote if you have a warrant, fine, misdemeanor or bankruptcy.
- ✓ A family member can help you vote. A voter with a disability may get help from anyone but their employer or union agent.
- ✓ If the voting room is not accessible due to age or physical disability, you CAN vote at the curb in a vehicle.
- ✓ If a problem occurs and you can't use a regular ballot at the poll, you have a right to a *provisional ballot* and to learn if it counted.

Need help? Questions? Call 888-OUR-VOTE or go to www.NCVoter.org. And as always, you can call, email, or visit the Jackson Center at the addresses below!