

Get to know your Town Council

After serving as Chapel Hill's first openly gay mayor, Mark Kleinschmidt's term will end this November.

While Kleinschmidt — who graduated from UNC's first N.C. Teaching Fellows class in 1992 — has not announced whether or not

he will seek a second term, he is not the only member of the nine-person Chapel Hill Town Council who could be up for reelection.

Council members Jim Ward, Sally Greene, Matt Czajkowski and Donna Bell all have terms that expire this year.



Jim Ward serves as the mayor pro tem for the council, which he has been a member of since 1999.

Ward, who has lived in Chapel Hill since 1975, works as a curator at the N.C. Botanical Garden at UNC.



Donna Bell was appointed to the council in November of 2009 as the body's only black member.

Bell, who has a master's degree in social work, lives in the Northside neighborhood with her husband, daughter and stepson.



Matt Czajkowski will complete his first term as a member of the town council this November.

Czajkowski ran for mayor in 2009 with a business-friendly platform but lost to Kleinschmidt by 99 votes.



Mark Kleinschmidt was the first mayor elected through the town's voter-owned election program.



Laurin Easthom has been a member of the council since 2005 and works part-time as a dentist.

Easthom, who has spent most of her life in North Carolina, lives in the northern part of town with her husband and two daughters.



Sally Greene has served on the council since 2003 and works at the Center for the Study of the American South.

Greene served on the town's committee on open space preservation to help create the 92-acre Morgan Creek Preserve.



Ed Harrison joined the council in 2001 and was the first member elected from an annexed part of town.

Harrison practices environmental management while not at council meetings and enjoys touring nature preserves.



Gene Pease was elected to the council in 2009 and is president and CEO of Capital Analytics Inc.

Before joining the council, Pease served on the citizens budget and finance committee and the town planning board.



Penny Rich was elected to the council in 2009 and was raised and educated in New York City.

Rich owns a personal chef-catering service, writes a food blog and teaches healthy menu planning classes.

Students look to town to volunteer

Sofia Morales
Staff Writer

With all the classes, activities and events that happen on campus, students sometimes forget that they are not only part of the University but also part of the Chapel Hill community.

But like UNC, Chapel Hill is home to many volunteer operations that are always looking for additional help.

Animal Shelter

Volunteers at the Orange County Animal Services Center help out as kennel assistants, dog walkers, cat socializers and special events organizers to care for local animals and help them find loving homes.

In addition to offering adoption opportunities, the center also provides low-cost rabies vaccines and spay/neuter treatments.

Sarah Fallin, center volunteer coordinator, said students can get involved independently by filling out an application and attending orientation, or through Helping Paws, a student-run organization.

"Volunteering gives students a better connection of what goes on in Chapel Hill than just the University," she said.

Rape Crisis Center

Students can also get involved in the community through the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, which helps victims of sexual abuse and works on the prevention of sexual violence.

Volunteer trainings will start in September, but Latino Service Coordinator Maria Morales Levy said volunteers can start filling out applications on the center's website at any time.

"We really are here because of the volunteer work," Levy said. "Everybody, all of us, needs to get involved in the place that we live so that we can make a better place for each other to live in."

Volunteers at the center can act as companions, community educators, Spanish-speaking advocates, support group facilitators

"It's a fantastic way to get to know the community off of campus, to really feel like you can make a difference in the community and to do great work."

Jenny Galassi,
Orange County Rape Crisis Center director

and office volunteers.

Jenny Galassi first joined the center as a sophomore in 1999 to practice her Spanish. She is now a member of its board of directors.

"It's a fantastic way to get to know the community off of campus, to really feel like you can make a difference in the community and to do great work," Galassi said.

Inter-Faith Council

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service provides the community with both a men's and a women's homeless shelter, a community pantry and a community kitchen and has open volunteer positions at all of them.

The council has a monthly volunteer orientation session on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Homeless Outreach Poverty Eradication, a student run organization, partners with the council and sends volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to HomeStart, the women and children's shelter.

HomeStart Residential Services Director Laurie Tucker said students can also volunteer to be client interviewers, greeters, meal monitors and residential assistants.

"The UNC students come in and run crazy with the kids for an hour," she said. "(Volunteering) helps them in the future to know what other people have been through, and it is good to share their gifts with others."

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

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