

# New town manager getting settled

Forsyth native, an admirer of small towns, hopes to do good for Walkertown



Scott Snow, the new town manager of Walkertown, is a 2001 graduate of Clemson University.

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WALKERTOWN

The town council ended its yearlong search for a new town manager last month when it hired Scott Snow.

Snow said he is still settling into the job, but that he is excited about the future of Walkertown.

"I've enjoyed it so far," he said. "Everyone has been really good at getting me adjusted."

Snow graduated from Clemson University in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in political science. While at Clemson, he was active in Model United Nations, something he said prepared him for government meetings and getting propositions passed.

Snow replaces Ron Bell who resigned as town manager in June 2007 after a year in the position.

The *Kernersville Journal* reported in July 2007 that among recent town managers, only Bell's predecessor, Toby Linville, had a longer stay. Linville worked for two years and two months.

The town went through a two-year period in 1999 and 2000 when five town managers worked for Walkertown. One manager during that period quit before he showed up for work.

Some who have held the post of town manager and former town officials told the *Journal* last year

that the position has been a steppingstone for young managers hoping to move up.

But the experience has been frustrating for others, who left for different fields or became embroiled in conflicts with town-staff members or council members.

Snow said that while his political-science background was beneficial, he has learned a lot in the past few weeks.

"School can give you basic theories, but hands-on experience is the most important thing," he said.

Snow, who grew up in the northern part of Forsyth County, in Tobaccolville, said he has always been attracted to the charm of smaller towns.

"It's what I've been used to," he said. "It's a lifestyle that is attractive to a lot of people because it's less stressful."

Recently, Snow has been taking night classes in public administration at the UNC Greensboro.

"It has helped me keep up with issues in public administration and issues in different municipalities," he said.

Snow's experience and political-science background will likely help him complete the projects lined up for the town, he said.

At the moment, he and council members are looking over plans to build a park behind the town hall. It would have a ¼-mile walking trail, a picnic shelter and an amphitheater.

Snow and his colleagues also have been looking at plans to build an extensive network of sidewalks in Walkertown.

Walkertown is place that has retained its small-town feel, but it is growing, Snow said.

"I look forward to having an impact on Walkertown," he said.

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