Paul Norby has announced that he will retire August 1. He is the longest-serving planning director since the department was established in 1948.

During his 19-year tenure Norby was instrumental in furthering the Planning Department's push to be a proactive partner with residents, developers and builders. These efforts include compilation of the Legacy comprehensive plan in 2001 and the Legacy 2030 Update in 2012-13, downtown revitalization plans, development opportunities maps, area plans developed with participation of local residents, and master plans for greenways, parks and public art. Other initiatives were aimed at improving community appearance, boosting historic preservation and neighborhood conservation, increasing public participation and preserving green space in Forsyth County. Norby also oversaw the 2014 merger of the Planning Department and City-County Inspections into a joint Department of Planning and Development Services.

Arnold King, the chairman of the City-County Planning Board, said it will be difficult to replace Norby. “In addition to being a very knowledgeable planner, Paul has also been a highly respected and effective manager who has developed a staff that provides excellent service to the community. Paul possesses a unique skill set that is going to be tough to duplicate.”

Mayor Allen Joines said the Legacy 2030 plan, which was recognized by the American Planning Association as the best comprehensive plan for 2014, typified the quality of Norby’s work. “Paul was an extraordinary leader of our community’s planning efforts,” Joines said. “He is principled and pragmatic at the same time, a trait that has served our city well.”

David R. Plyler, the chairman of the Forsyth County Commissioners, noted that Norby’s prior service as the planning director for Durham served him well. “When he got here, he was more prepared than the average person. He has a personality that doesn’t crack very easily. If you want to be critical he can take it and he will work to find a solution. He’s very even-keeled.”

Norby began his career in planning in 1974 with the Augusta-Richmond County (Georgia) Planning Commission. He later worked in Fort Wayne, Indiana, before serving as Durham’s planning director from 1980 to 1999. In 2006 he was inducted as a Fellow by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

The City-County Planning Board has retained Developmental Associates to help find Norby’s replacement and hopes to have his successor hired by early fall.

Silver Hill Historic Marker Unveiling

On May 19, the Historic Resources Commission held an unveiling ceremony for a historic marker recognizing Silver Hill. The small, L-shaped 1880s African-American neighborhood of modest houses was built by tobacco workers and domestic servants and predated the white subdivision of Buena Vista that developed around it. The community housed approximately 12 families through 1952. None of the houses remain.

The Negro Antioch Baptist Church, ca. 1892, stood on Holiday Street until destroyed by fire in 1942. Headstones were removed from the cemetery for protection. 558 interments have been identified dating from 1901 to 1951. United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church has owned and maintained the cemetery since 1965.

Dedication of the Silver Hill historic marker was well attended and remarks were made by Mayor Allen Joines, City Council Member Jeff MacIntosh and Historic Resources Commission Marker Committee Member, Karyn Reilly. Prestina Gist a charter member of United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, gave special remarks. The event also included a poetic reading, a musical selection and a benediction by Reverend James D. Ballard.
2018 Community Appearance Awards

The Community Appearance Commission (CAC) held the 2018 Community Appearance Awards in the James A. Gray Auditorium at the Old Salem Museums & Gardens Visitor Center on May 30. The CAC sponsors a biennial awards program to honor the efforts of businesses, individuals, and community groups who have had a positive impact on the appearance of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. The event marked the 16th in a series of awards programs initiated in 1990.

Approximately 100 people were in attendance to hear keynote speaker, Ken Bowers, AICP speak on the value of design. Mr. Bowers is the President of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Director for the City of Raleigh’s Planning Department. Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines was in attendance to present the Mayor’s Award as were Council Members Dan Besse, John Larson, and Jeff Maclntosh, who presented the City Council Award. Forsyth County Commission Chairman David Plyler presented the County Commissioners’ Award. City-County Planning Board member Melynda Dunigan was also in attendance.

A total of eleven awards were presented to area businesses, individuals, and community groups.

2018 Community Appearance Award Winners

- Count Zinzendorf Award
  - Bookmarks
- Joseph Winston Award
- Brock-Horn-Maslin House
- City Council Award
- Outdoor Creations
- Mayor’s Award
- Salem College Student Center
- County Commissioners’ Award
- Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden
- Benjamin Forsyth Award
- Historical East Winston Mural
- Flora Ann Bynum Award
- Quarry Park
- George Black Award
- James Grace Sr.
- AIA Award
- Forsyth County Central Library
- Community Appearance Commission Award
- Happy Hill Cemetery Friends
- Classic Award
- Samuel and Sarah Stauber Farm

Want more information?
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CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM - Mayor: Allen Joines; City Council: Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northwest Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee Garrity

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