

ABOUT MARY SHKUT



Approach to Village Matters

"My approach to policy and politics is pretty simple:

(1) What do the people want?

(2) What do current laws say?

(3) Want to change the law? Follow transparent processes.

(4) While it's in place, treat everyone equal under the law."

Brief Introduction

I have been an active member in the Village of Marvin since 2004. Before getting involved in Village politics, I began my career in academia; sociology and statistics. My independent academic research was published in the areas of Culture, Ethnicity and Identity.

How I Got Started with Village Business

Upon moving to the Village of Marvin, I volunteered to design and execute a survey, to gauge resident interest in the Longview South Commercial Development. As is often the case with independent studies, the project required I familiarize myself with planning, zoning and land development practices in North Carolina; along with methodologies used to measure traffic and trip generation. Before you know it, I was invited to apply to the Village Planning Board and have been immersed in Village Land Development projects and North Carolina Statutes ever since!

General History in the Village

I spent many years on the Planning Board, most of those years were spent as Chairperson of the Planning Board. When faced with a drastic reduction in staff, I spent two years employed by the Village as Village Clerk & Park Development Coordinator. I voluntarily resigned from this position to return to the Planning Board.

In the past few years, I drafted and executed the Village's first Village-wide Land Use Plan survey - an important tool used to help guide Village land use decisions based on detailed resident input. And, most recently, at the Senior Planner's request, I drafted the Village's first fully-fledged Land Use Plan, with the help of each Village resident who provided input through the Village Land Use Plan survey.

In order to accommodate a commercial development application in the Village, I worked with the Senior Planner to design and craft clearer land use processes and procedures. I also scripted design regulations that would provide more attractive development, and clearer development standards, for applicants and residents alike. Though I don't believe in a reduction of these standards, I believe the next step for the Village is to re-organize the ordinances into better form.

Most recently I was appointed to fill Councilman Ron Salimao's Village Council seat. I know this appointment hasn't pleased proponents of expansive commercial development. Still, my motto applies best. I feel compelled to represent what the majority of the people want, analyze the current condition of the law and, where there is ample support, follow the process to make more suitable laws - but, in the meantime, no one is above the law.

Special Interests, Related to Development

My family and I love being residents of the Village of Marvin. I am wife to a very loyal Marvinian (who you'll often find volunteering at annual park events or at Village meetings) and mother to two teens - one who began high school this year and the other started university this past fall.

Next to my family, my passions include a love of learning and a love for serving people. I have a passion for problem solving, policy and people, and an inherent drive to take care of residents where I can.

In accord with my love of data and statistics, I have taken a particular interest in traffic generation, in relation to development and have a keen understanding of the relationship between community uses and the impact this can have on roads and schools.

I enjoy collaborating and striving toward goals that continue to make Marvin a serene and enjoyable place for neighborhoods and families.