

**M**orrisville's new Mayor, Jan Faulkner, is adjusting to a different role. Faulkner is not new to politics or the intricacies of local government. After spending eight years as a Town Commissioner, she will now lead the Board as Mayor. "I began serving the community when I was appointed to a seat on the Morrisville Planning Board in 1993. At that time, Morrisville was beginning to see significant growth. A lot has changed since I first began working on the Planning

community." Lenovo plans to move 1,820 workers from Research Triangle Park to the Morrisville facility in Perimeter Park and add 400 new jobs. The first of three buildings is expected to be complete in January 2007.

She exudes a friendly, easy-going manner, but that's not always what Faulkner's feeling. "I am looking forward to the new challenges, but at the same time have some anxiety." When pressed, Faulkner reveals a

# Morrisville's Prepared


Board. Back then, our tax base was approximately 80% commercial and 20% residential. Our community seemed like an industrial park to Cary and Durham. The idea of smart growth took hold and people wanted to live where they worked. Developers started making the natural transition to residential opportunities, creating a greater balance in our tax base between residential and commercial properties. Our current tax base is 57% residential and 43% commercial." Faulkner is proud of the town's accomplishments so far. "At the time, Morrisville had only one bank and our residents wanted to see another financial institution in our community. Fellow Commissioner Liz Johnson and I went door-to-door to several banks and now we have a Fidelity, Wachovia, and Capital Bank located in Morrisville." She is also excited about Lenovo's recent announcement that it will occupy an \$84 million corporate campus in Morrisville. "We all worked together and I am thrilled with the outcome. We developed an incentive plan to keep them here locally. It's a huge benefit to have them in our

vulnerability that she's worked hard to overcome. "I have a tremendous fear of public speaking and not coming across well."

Faulkner also demonstrates her sense of humor when she discusses her two roles: Real Estate Appraiser, and now, Morrisville Mayor. "I often wear a skirt or suit and I am not a skirt person!" she says with a nervous laugh. "As a real estate appraiser, I frequently wear jeans because I am climbing and moving around on properties taking measurements for an appraisal. I joke that I must go into a phone booth to change and come out as Morrisville Mayor."

Jokes aside, Faulkner is serious about what happens in Morrisville. "I'm not afraid to take a stand. The utility merger is a prime example. The timing was difficult having to address a very complex issue during an election. I may have lost some votes, but my job is to look at what's best for the town." In October, the Morrisville Board of Commissioners





# New Mayor to Lead

by Jill Branson Hammergren

unanimously approved a utility systems merger with the Town of Cary. In November, Cary's Town Council approved the agreement. The utility systems are expected to merge in April 2006.

Faulkner acknowledges there are some challenges facing the town, but she plans to lead the town through them with the help of her team, the Board of Commissioners. "Our population has grown tremendously in a short period of time. We have over 13,000 residents and I want to make sure we grow as a community that enjoys and appreciates our town and each other's cultures and diversities. We can learn so much by embracing different perspectives." Faulkner will use her best asset to further the town's goals and initiatives. "I am a good listener. I think that's really my job. If you're not willing to listen, you won't understand what's needed to find a win-win solution."

Faulkner and her husband, Lewis, run a successful real estate appraisal business. They primarily focus on residential real estate in the Triangle area. Faulkner says the activities of an appraiser suit her. "Being outside, physically measuring houses and inspecting houses. I like the math and geometry of it. In addition, she and Lewis have two daughters, Wynter, who is an ECU graduate and now a commercial designer in Morrisville and Whitney, who is a sophomore at NCSU. Faulkner credits her success to her strong faith.

"Talking with her, it's easy to see she's adapting well to the new role. "The way I see it the residents voted in a great group of people who will work hard for the town." The vote of confidence from the community demonstrates the recognition of her commitment to Morrisville and ability to demonstrate leadership.