

Cheryl Lewis
4094 Main Street

I moved to Trappe in 1999 with my husband and two small children, hoping to relive childhood memories of my Grandparents home in St. Michaels by allowing my children the opportunity to grow up in rural America. 12 years later and quite a bit older, with two young adults for children, I still marvel every morning when I look out my window and admire the beautiful country town we all call home.

At my first visit to a Town Council meeting back in 2000 Edgar Harrison, the sitting president, introduced me as a new resident at the meeting and invited me to run for office the following year. Now I couldn't tell you if he was joking or just being polite, but I took him up on his offer and we still laugh about it.



I served two full terms on the Trappe Council from 2001 through 2009; reaching term limits I was not able to run for another term. The 8 years I served on the council, 5 years as President, was a busy time for our Town, with the implementation of our acclaimed Comprehensive Plan, the negotiation of the one of the most comprehensive annexations in state history and some incredible visioning on behalf of the Town Council and the Planning Commission. The initial results of this visioning are all around us, the revitalization of our town center, the wonderful architecture of the new commercial buildings, acquisition of land for a future park, a convenience store that really serves scooped ice cream, restaurants serving breakfast, lunch and dinner and a wonderful police department, all adding to our quality of life. The future holds many more opportunities for our town, but as many of us already know, keeping a balance between the new and the old is very crucial to our success. As I said many times when I was in office, we want to learn from the mistakes of others, not repeat them. It is for this reason that I am again asking for your vote.

The economy is certainly at the forefront of our current issues and it is important that we do what we need to right now to maintain our quality of life while balancing our budget. Yet, it is just as important to protect our future by not sacrificing the great forethought and comprehensive planning that has already been put in motion. I firmly believe it is possible to scale back where necessary while maintaining our forward motion. Having prepared the town budget for the 8 years I was in office, I am well acquainted with all aspects of Town's income and expenses and will utilize this knowledge to develop a true picture of our current financial situation, along with planning for the light at the end of the tunnel.

For the last several years I have been serving numerous towns throughout the eastern shore as a circuit riding town manager. This involvement in budget preparation, comprehensive planning, comprehensive rezoning, citizen interaction, water and sewer initiatives and grant writing for multiple communities located in multiple counties has allowed me to expand my knowledge of municipal government functions, along with developing relationships at town, county and state levels. I am very excited at the opportunity to bring this education back to my town.

As before, my goal is to serve the people, which to me means doing what is best for the majority while protecting the rights and property of all. As your elected official I will listen to you, provide honest and accurate information to you, and do my best to govern in a manner that best serves the Trappe citizenry.

If you would like to speak to me concerning town issues, feel free to contact me by email at cheryllewis@verizon.net or on my cell at 443-496-1761.

April 27, 2011..... Cheryl Lewis

Following the primary election in April 2011, each candidate was invited to respond in 400 words or less to two additional questions. The questions were:

1. Are you in favor of term limits for council members? Why or Why not?
2. Identify two things you would do as a Council member to reach Trappe residents that don't typically attend meetings to encourage their involvement in town and community activities.

Candidate response to question 1.

Although I know that the general consensus throughout the state is that Term Limits are not necessary at the municipal level of government and especially in small towns where it can be difficult to actually find people to run for office, I feel the Trappe presents a unique situation. The citizens of Trappe forced the Term Limits policy by retaining enough signatures to put the Term Limit initiative on a Trappe ballot and then reinforced their decision by voting in favor of Term Limits. My feeling when I was an elected official was "the citizens of Trappe put Term Limits in place and only the citizens of Trappe should be able to remove them" and that did not change once I hit my own Term Limit. When the current council decided to remove them, I testified on behalf of several citizens requesting that they table their decision to remove Term Limits and that they instead vote to place it on the ballot. I don't feel my personal feelings about term limits are as important as the feeling of the majority of Trappe citizens.

Candidate response to question 2

Identify two things you would do as a Council member to reach Trappe residents that don't typically attend meetings to encourage their involvement in town and community activities.

As a former commissioner, I feel there are ways to get people involved in government and community, without requiring they attend meetings to stay informed. While in office, I was instrumental in resurrecting the INDEX and spent many hours making sure it went out consistently so citizens could stay informed. Trappe has one of the best newsletters on the shore. I also believe in allowing citizen participation at town meetings and did so for the five years I conducted meetings as the council president. We often had a full house, standing room only and not because of contentious issues, but because the meetings were informative and allowed for participation. Sometimes formal meetings are necessary, but we are a small town and we can conduct our business as a small town, including allowing citizens to work with officials in a town hall setting while still conducting government business in a professional manner. It is also important for an elected official to be out and about, willing to discuss what is going on in town whenever the opportunity presents itself. I am always happy to discuss Trappe and its current happenings, along with reaching out to citizens and inviting people to meetings and events.

I invite contact from all citizens who would like to discuss town business and/or my views and opinions on current issues. I can be reached by email at cheryllewis@verizon.net or by cell phone at 443-496-1761.