

THE ADMINISTRATOR

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‘WE WILL KEEP ON GOING’

For decades, local government leaders from across North Carolina have come to regard the 200 block of North Dawson Street in downtown Raleigh as a home away from home. The Local Government Center, which includes the Albert Coates building, the S. Leigh Wilson building and the David E. Reynolds building, has been the heart of local government in North Carolina. The N.C. League of Municipalities (NCLM) and the N.C. Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) have called this campus home since 1978.

But in the evening of March 16, a nearby massive apartment fire threatened to destroy the campus entirely. And while the buildings (particularly the Reynolds Building and, to a lesser extent, the Coates building) were significantly damaged, the mission and drive of the NCLM and the NCACC have never been stronger.



The massive apartment fire in Raleigh that threatened and damaged the Reynolds building (left) and the Coates building (right). (Photo courtesy of freerepublic.com.)

Thankfully, no employees of either association were injured in the blaze.

“This is a major event to go through,” NCACC Executive Director Kevin Leonard told the News & Observer. “We’re just doing things one at a time. I’ve learned very quickly that you just have to keep moving forward and keeping the long-term vision in mind.”

NCLM and NCACC employees have begun temporarily working remotely. At this point, there is no timetable on a return to the buildings – but the work of the organizations continues.

“We’ll just keep working around this until we’re stable,” said NCLM Executive Director Paul Meyer. “We face adversity in local government every day. This is no different. We will keep on going.”

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The Administrator is a monthly newsletter of the North Carolina City and County Management Association, a professional association for city and county managers and assistant managers from counties and municipalities throughout the state of North Carolina.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 NCCCMA Summer Seminar

Embassy Suites Concord Golf Resort & Spa, Concord
June 21-24, 2017

2017 ICMA Southeast Regional Summit

Courtyard Marriott Gatlinburg
Downtown
Gatlinburg, Tenn.
April 27 & 28, 2017

SUMMER SEMINAR REGISTRATION OPEN, WOMEN'S SUMMIT TO BE HELD

Registration is now open for the 2017 N.C. City & County Management Association (NCCCMA) Summer Seminar, which will be held June 22-24 at the Embassy Suites Spa & Golf Resort in Concord. To register for the seminar, or to learn more about the agenda and golf, go to <http://www.cvent.com/d/75qk8l>.

One concurrent session to this year's agenda is the Pre-Conference Women's Summit, which will be held on Thursday, June 22nd from noon until 4:30 p.m. You do not have to attend the NCCCMA Summer Seminar to participate in this program, which is provided by the UNC School of Government.

After a networking lunch, the summit will include a panel session on "Navigating Dual Roles: Manager and Caregiver." This session will look at how taking a top management job in local government can present significant professional and personal challenges. The panel will include managers and assistant managers who have dealt with or are dealing with the challenges associated with their career

while taking care of children, disabled relatives, or elderly parents.

Another session will look at "Assessment and Negotiation" and will deal with the skills that every executive must master to be successful but that many find challenging to apply. Using a mock assessment center format, this session will engage the audience in evaluating the mixed performance of two executives in critical and common situations - negotiating a contract with Council and coaching an employee to correct some performance issues. Attendees will leave with an overall understanding of assessment center evaluation and some tips for success in three critical skills.

The featured speaker for the Women's Summit will be Heather A. Lee, Ph.D., SPHR, an industrial/organizational Psychologist and a partner at Developmental Associates, LLC.

Special thanks to Morrisville Town Manager Martha Paige and Kim Nelson of the UNC School of Government for coordinating this summit.

CLAYTON MOURNS DEATH OF FORMER TOWN MANAGER BIGGS

The town of Clayton and the N.C. City & County Management Association are mourning the loss of former Clayton Town Manager Steve Biggs, who died on April 12.

Clayton held a public memorial service for the man who led the town for almost 20 years. Biggs, who was 53 at the time of his death, had been serving the town of Christiansburg, Va., as town manager. He had been in that position since last June.

Under Biggs' leadership, Clayton grew from a town struggling financially to a leader in Johnston County and the Triangle region.

While still in his early 30s in 1997, Biggs took over the helm at the town of Clayton during some troubled financial times for the municipality. Biggs is credited for turning the town's finances around, and he helped usher in many successes, including the exemplary public-private partnership that helped the community save two abandoned schoolhouses and transform them into The Clayton Center – a modern Town Hall and performing arts center



that continue to serve the town. Many agree the buildings might not be standing without Steve.

Clayton Mayor Jody McLeod said in a news release that the town's hearts are broken but that Biggs' legacy will live on in the Clayton he helped build.

"We can all take pride in the fact that the legacy Steve Biggs created and built in Clayton will live forever."

Councilman Michael Grannis said Biggs was gifted as a leader.

"Steve was an unbelievable civic leader,"

he said. "A leader with unquestioned abilities to make extremely hard decisions that, for the most part, were highly successful decisions that molded Clayton into the town it is today."

"I was elected to Town Council in 1999 and we had a great professional relationship," Council Member Butch Lawter said. "He was one of the smartest people about more things in local government than anyone I had ever met. He seemed to have knowledge of everything and while, technically, I was his boss, I learned so much from him about how to lead and work with people. Over the past 20 years, we became good friends and I'm certainly going to miss him. He left his mark on Clayton, that's for sure."

"Steve loved his wife and children beyond reproach, as evidenced by the commitments he made to them throughout the years," said Grannis. "I don't know that I've ever seen husband and father with such a strong commitment toward his family."

"He will be missed but not ever forgotten."