

The Village eNews

An Electronic Newsletter for Residents of The Village

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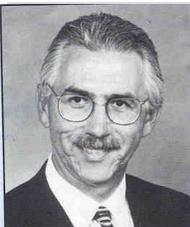
July 2014

CITY COUNCIL NAMES NEW CITY ATTORNEY

On July 15, 2014, the City Council appointed Leslie V. Batchelor as the new City Attorney for the City of The Village. Ms. Batchelor, however, is no stranger to The Village. She has served as Legal Counsel for The Village Development Authority since 2006. In that capacity, she has been instrumental in helping the City create two Urban Renewal Districts and three Tax Increment Districts. These in turn have provided the legal structure and incentives to purchase and redevelop the Vintage Lake Apartments and to bring Uptown Grocery to The Village. Ms. Batchelor replaces Stephen E. Reel, who retired at the end of June after 42 years of service with The Village.



Leslie Batchelor is President and Co-Founder of the Center for Economic Development Law, a unique private law firm which assists local governments in Oklahoma with development activities. Leslie is nationally recognized for her expertise in public-private partnerships, tax increment financing techniques, and other redevelopment and financing strategies. A native of Oklahoma City, (and graduate of Casady School) Leslie served as a senior official in the Justice Department from 1997-2000, including as Deputy Associate Attorney General and Counsel to Attorney General Janet Reno, where she was responsible for overseeing a number of major policy initiatives for the Attorney General, including a pilot community safety project in Indian Country, major environmental litigation, and government transparency issues.



Longtime City Attorney Stephen Reel recently retired after 42 years of service with The Village. Mr. Reel came to work for The Village in 1972 when he was appointed by then City Manager Gene

Bumpass to serve the citizens of The Village as his Administrative Assistant. After Bumpass retired, Reel was appointed by the City Council to serve as City Manager and was only the second person to ever serve in that capacity. In 1981, after a short hiatus from his employment with The Village, Reel was appointed to serve the Citizens of The Village as part-time City Attorney. Reel was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2013 for City and Town Officials in Oklahoma in recognition of his many outstanding professional achievements to the benefit of cities and towns in Oklahoma. Reel's unmatched knowledge and experience in Municipal Law will be sorely missed by the City as will his wit and sense of humor.

Leslie has served in the leadership roles of a number of civic and professional organizations, including Chair of the Urban Land Institute for Oklahoma, President of the Oklahoma County Bar Foundation, and President of Historic Preservation, Inc. She is a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Oklahoma Honors College and the Board of Directors of i2E.

Among her major projects are the restoration and reopening of the Skirvin Hotel, the Dell Computer campus on the Oklahoma River, Norman's Campus Corner Revitalization Project, Guymon's Seaboard Economic Development Project, Lawton's Downtown Economic Development Project, Broken Arrow's FlightSafety and Downtown Development Project, and John Rex Elementary School, currently under construction in downtown Oklahoma City.

Leslie also represented the Myriad Gardens Foundation in its negotiation of the public-private partnership agreement with the City, under with the Foundation now leases and manages the Gardens, giving it the flexibility to increase the programs and activities that have made Myriad Gardens the public square for downtown Oklahoma City. — *continued on next page.*

*Dave Bennett, Mayor - C. Scott Symes, Vice-Mayor
Hutch Hibbard, Council Member - Chris Bernardy, Council Member - Stan Alexander, Council Member*