



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, in 1996, Patti Stokes began publishing a community newsletter titled the Oak Ridge Observer; and

**WHEREAS**, over the next several years, the publication grew into a weekly community newspaper called the Northwest Observer that covered northwest Guilford County; and

**WHEREAS**, the publication became the only real source of local government news, covering Town Council meetings in Oak Ridge, Summerfield, and Stokesdale as well as decisions affecting the area including meetings of the Guilford County Commissioners and the Guilford County Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Observer also covered every facet of local occurrences including news, features, human interest, local events, area schools, residential and commercial development, elections, history, youth sports and accomplishments, calendar events, and crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the publication also provided a platform for local businesses to advertise their wares and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Observer provided a way for local residents to praise or criticize things going on around them and was often a means of humor and amusement for its readers who particularly enjoyed the Grins and Gripes section; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Oak Ridge used the Northwest Observer as a means to notify its citizens about town council decisions, upcoming public hearings, historic preservation efforts and grants, and town-sponsored events including Music in the Park, Light Up the Night, Heritage Day, Canine Capers, RidgeFest, Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances, July 4 Kids Parade, and other events and activities at Oak Ridge Town Hall, Oak Ridge Town Park, Heritage Farm Park, Veterans Honor Green, and Farmhouse Community Center.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it proclaimed that I, with all the members of Town Council, do hereby express sincere appreciation to Patti Stokes and the entire staff of the Northwest Observer for providing a means of sharing news of the Town of Oak Ridge and the area for the last 28 years. We also extend heartfelt congratulations to Patti Stokes upon her retirement, wishing her the best in this new phase of life.

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Jim Kinneman  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sandra B. Smith, CMC, NCCMC  
Asst. Town Manager/Town Clerk