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Lexington city manager to depart for job in Texas

By Alison Graham alison.graham@roanoke.com 540-981-3324 Mar 22, 2019



Noah Simon

The Roanoke Times | File 2014

LEXINGTON — City Manager Noah Simon announced his resignation this week to take a deputy town manager position in Westlake, Texas.

Simon joined Lexington's staff in October 2014 to replace Jon Ellestad, who retired after leading the city for 24 years. Simon came to Virginia after working as assistant county manager in Floyd County, Georgia, and beating 40 other candidates for the position.

Simon said he came to Lexington and never expected to leave, but described the new job in Westlake as winning the lottery. His wife's family lives in Texas and Simon has previously worked in the Dallas area.

"I'm ready for another challenge, another opportunity," Simon said. "I'm looking forward to that next chapter of my professional life."

Westlake is a small but rapidly growing community of about 1,400 people northeast of Fort Worth. Forbes Magazine named Westlake the most affluent neighborhood in the country in 2011 with a median household income of \$250,000 and an average home value of \$1.2 million.



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Westlake is also the home of the fifth International Baccalaureate World School in the country, Westlake Academy, which is run by the town. Simon said he is excited to continue to work with education after the great relationship he has built with Lexington City Schools.

“While we can’t say enough about his leadership, vision, and work ethic, we wish to thank him for the progress our community has seen during his tenure,” Mayor Frank Friedman said in a statement. “His work to make government more responsive and efficient aided in our ability to utilize federal, state, and local resources to improve the quality of life for our residents, make technological advancements, and put millions of dollars into roadway improvements and other projects.”

Friedman said the city will seek an interim city manager and an outside firm to assist with the search for a permanent replacement. Lexington used a search firm to hire Simon. His last day will be April 30.

Simon said he is proud of the work he accomplished in Lexington, including building the city’s professional staff and an ambitious schedule of capital projects.

“When I look back here, it’s the relationships I’ve established and cultivated not only internally with my staff but with most of the community,” Simon said. “At some point in my career I’m going to look back and at that point I will have worked in the two greatest communities in this country — Lexington and Westlake.”

Alison Graham

Alison Graham covers Botetourt and Rockbridge counties and Lexington. She's originally from Indianapolis and a graduate of Indiana University.

Contests and Promotions



The graphic features a gold laurel wreath on a black background. At the top left is the SWVA logo. To its right, the word "LIVING" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, a red ribbon banner contains the text "Reader's Choice" in a white, cursive font. In the center of the wreath, the text "YOUR FAVORITES" is written in gold, followed by a horizontal line, then "YOUR CHOICE" in white, another horizontal line, and finally "VOTE NOW" in gold.

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The advertisement features a large, detailed image of a craft beer glass with a thick head of foam on the left side. The background is dark with a subtle pattern of green leaves. The central focus is a grid of 14 circular logos for various local breweries, including names like 'Savage', 'Bluebird', 'The Roanoke Brewing Co.', 'Clyde', 'ABOG', 'Bottle', 'Eastern Divide', 'Long Run', 'The Roanoke Brewing Co.', 'Green', and 'Savage'. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with the main title and price being the most prominent.

Craft Beer Brew Deal Card