



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

October 2011
Vol. 8, No. 2

www.townofchapelhill.org

On the Front Burner



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CHAPEL HILL 2020 and PRIORITY BUDGETING. You are a major stakeholder in these efforts. Find a way to get involved and express your view.

Since the last issue of TOWNtalk, the Town hosted the first of a series of community meetings, which nearly 400 people attended, to begin discussions about the Chapel Hill 2020 comprehensive plan. Chapel Hill 2020 is an innovative process designed to gather as much information from as many people as possible about the most important concerns and interests of those who live, work and play in Chapel Hill. Information gathered from this meeting and other community meetings will be used to reexamine and redefine the priorities and vision for the town and its future for the next 10 years.

Redefining the Town's priorities will also mean changes in the budget and budget process. Concurrently with the 2020 planning process, the Town is moving toward a new budget process called "priority budgeting." This type of budgeting will take the priorities identified in the Chapel Hill 2020 comprehensive plan and allocate resources based on those priorities. This is a major reason why your involvement in the Chapel Hill 2020 process is critical. You have a stake in the outcome.

As I have said before, the Chapel Hill 2020 process involves every community, every race, every age, every culture, and every corner in Chapel Hill. And the results of the process will affect all of us who live, work and play in Chapel Hill. I am pleased to see Town

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Faith Thompson

Chapel Hill 2020 Outreach Coordinator

Joined Town: October 10, 2011

Faith is coordinating outreach efforts for Chapel Hill 2020, the community-wide effort to create a new comprehensive plan that will determine the shape of Chapel Hill for the next 10 years. Her goal is to reach at least 10,000 people, with as much diversity as possible, including veterans, youth, seniors and ethnic minorities.

We want input from Town employees! Feel free to contact Faith at 969-5068. If you want a say in how our community's limited resources are used, this is your chance for input. If the Chapel Hill 2020 project has not captured the voice of a particular group, please let us know. Everyone is invited to attend community meetings. Visit chapelhill2020.org for more details.

Faith is perfect for this position because she has a background in local government and has invested a lot of time in nonprofit organizations, including serving on boards and volunteering. This job brings both together.

Faith has been married for 19 years to William A Thompson. They have two sons, William and Herbin.

Faith served the U.S. Army as a military police officer and had the good fortune to live in several states and in other countries, including Germany, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Value in the Spotlight

Equity



Melanie Miller photo

She has an affinity for Jamaica, and tries to visit there at least three times a year.

Faith collects art, including ankhs, African American art, and art involving women. She enjoys blues and jazz, and tries to attend at least five festivals in North Carolina every year, especially funky, out-of-the-way festivals. Her favorite is the Kure Beach Seafood, Blues and Jazz Festival.

Faith is a volunteer for Partners for Youth, a mentoring program for at-promise youth

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COMING UP

Saturday, Nov. 5: Oakwood Park Grand Re-Opening Ceremony, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 9: Recognition of Veterans, 7 p.m., Council Chambers

Friday, Nov. 18: Longevity Breakfast, 9 a.m., Hargraves Center, 216 N. Roberson St.

Saturday, Nov. 19: Chapel Hill 2020 Community Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Chapel Hill High School

Nov. 24-25: Town Holiday. Most municipal offices will be closed.



Behind the scenes at Homegrown Halloween

In Brief



Frances Russell (HRD) has been appointed as the Human Resource Director. She has been serving in

an interim capacity for a number of months and has shown her leadership and consistency with our Values in that assignment. She also participated in a rigorous assessment center for the job with multiple candidates.

Please welcome Frances to her new position and look for ways to work with her and the HRD staff to make this an even better place to work.



Thanks to everybody for making the "Pink Heals" benefit event for UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer a success. About \$5,000 was raised. Thanks to UNC Athletics, Band, Cheerleaders and football team and to Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. Thanks to the members of the Chapel Hill Firefighters Association for the efforts and investments. A special thanks to Piedmont Chapter of Guardians of the Ribbon out of High Point for lending us the pink fire truck. And mega thanks to Capt. **Byron Greeson** for the idea to do it and the effort to help coordinate all the moving parts.

Gratitude also goes to the Tar Heel fans who helped "Give Cancer the Boot" by donating on Oct. 8.



TOWNtalk is produced by the Communications and Public Affairs Department
 Editorial/Graphics: Catherine Lazorko,
 Melanie Miller

In Memory of 9/11

On Sept. 11, UNC Head Football Coach Everett Withers stopped by the Fire Station with a UNC game ball signed by the football coaches as a gift to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the loss of the 343 brothers in New York. Capt. **David Sasser** accepted the ball on behalf of all Fire personnel. Even the Duke and Wolfpack fans! The football will be kept in the trophy case. BIG Thanks to Coach Withers and his staff for thinking of us on a special day.



Fire Chief **Dan Jones** and Capt. **David Sasser**

Chapel Hill Loves Festifall

Festifall 2011 on Sunday, Oct. 2, was a huge success. Lauded by quite a few on the inside and out as the most smoothly run festival to date, the nature of this comment was reflected in a multitude of ways.

Patrons of the event came steadily all day long with joy and amazement on their faces as they viewed incredible art, the Aerial Angels, danced in the lively dance tent, made art, and enjoyed some of the best food on West Franklin Street with weather that was the best anyone could ever imagine.

Jennifer Collins Mancour served as the juror for the Artist Awards, and the following artists accepted their awards: 1st Place: Megan Clark; 2nd Place: Susan Brabeau; 3rd Place: Tanya Casteel.

Overall, the message that Chapel Hill is the place to be where the arts are concerned was overwhelmingly greeted with all out engagement in fun with friends and family alike.

—Carter Hubbard, Parks and Recreation



The Town of Chapel Hill is poised to benefit from a grant received by UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science to increase the digital curation workforce, focusing on the public information and the integration of public policy with information technology.

The \$897,000 grant, awarded to UNC faculty member Dr. Helen Tibbo from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, will provide funding for graduate level students to intern over three years with the Communications and Public Affairs Department. This year, **Nick Ring** is the UNC fellow who is working at CaPA.



Have you attended EEOC training?

All Town employees (permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time or contract) **are required** to attend Equal Employment Opportunity training before January. If you haven't attended a session yet, see the schedule below.

- Police: Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m., Police Headquarters
- Parks and Recreation: Nov. 10, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Aquatic Center
- Police: Nov. 11, 8:30 a.m., Police Headquarters
- Town Hall: Nov. 16, 1 p.m., Town Hall
- All Departments: Dec. 7, 10 a.m., Transit
- Make-up session: Dec. 9, 10 a.m., Transit

Seating at the Aquatic Center is limited, so email **Dennis Schoch** (HRD) at dschoch@townofchapelhill.org if you plan to attend one of those sessions.

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SMT Notes

The following is a brief update of some of the items that were announced and have been discussed recently by the Senior Management Team (SMT). These notes are now being posted on the Town's Intranet twice a month and can be accessed from your Town computer. To access the notes, type in "intranet" in your web browser, click "Published Documents" on the left-hand side of the page, then "SMT Meeting Notes" under the "Teams" column. To stay up-to-date on other Town news and activities, subscribe to Chapel Hill eNews by emailing info@townofchapelhill.org.

Wellness@Work: The Health Risk Assessment (HRA) Fair was a great success. As of Sept. 28, a total of 224 HRA questionnaires have been completed and 213 employees have attended the HRA lab visits. We are well on our way to the goal of 80 percent of employees participating in the HRA. (see graphic on pg. 4)

Priority Budgeting and Chapel Hill 2020: The Town will use "priority budgeting" to develop next year's budget. This form of budgeting is a process by which a government identifies its strategic priorities and ranks services according to how well they align with those priorities. Resources are then allocated in accordance with the rankings identified. Priority budgeting is closely aligned with the Chapel Hill 2020 project, since a large part of the project is geared toward identifying the Town's strategic priorities.

Pink Heals: For the month of October many of you noticed pink uniform shirts on many of the Chapel Hill Fire Department personnel. This is to signify support and participation in a nationwide growing fire service effort ("Pink Heals") to raise awareness of cancer and its impacts on many of our families and friends. The "Pink Heals" benefit event for the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, sponsored in part by the Chapel Hill Firefighters Association, occurred at Kenan Stadium on October 8th and raised about \$5,000 for cancer awareness. Thanks to Dan Jones and the Fire Department for their efforts.

Free Classes at the Library!

Chapel Hill Public Library is offering free classes, including online job searching/resume writing, social networking and PowerPoint basics. To register, call 968-2780 or register online at www.lib.unc.edu/cws.

Compliments



Dennis Bailey, Keith Alston and Kendall High (all Fire) were commended by Brook Mowbray for their assistance to a very ill person. "Thank you for your continued professional and competent help."

Kudos to **Megan Wooley** (Planning) from Mary Jane Nirdlinger (Planning) for organizing "The Sustainability Spectrum" conference on Sept. 21. She's helping the Town with this home-grown training program and planners from the area were also able to meet some of their continuing education needs through Megan's efforts.

The **Fire Department** was thanked by Kurt Mueller for providing a fire truck for a children's birthday party. "They did a great job with the kids and the adults, and we all feel very fortunate that it was all possible this time. Thank you as always for all that you and your staff do."

Kumar Neppalli (Traffic Engineering) was praised by Marilyn Hartman for improving traffic lights. "Thanks to you and to everyone who is working on changing traffic lights around town. Congratulations on making some efforts to relieve traffic around town."

In the Spotlight

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in Durham. She is not a North Carolina native, but says she got here as quickly as she could. She was born in New Jersey, and eventually found her way to North Carolina in 1991.

Faith likes meeting new people and learning new things. She is good at finding out things about people, like their hidden talents!

"When you know better, you do better, and I'm a do-better kind of woman."

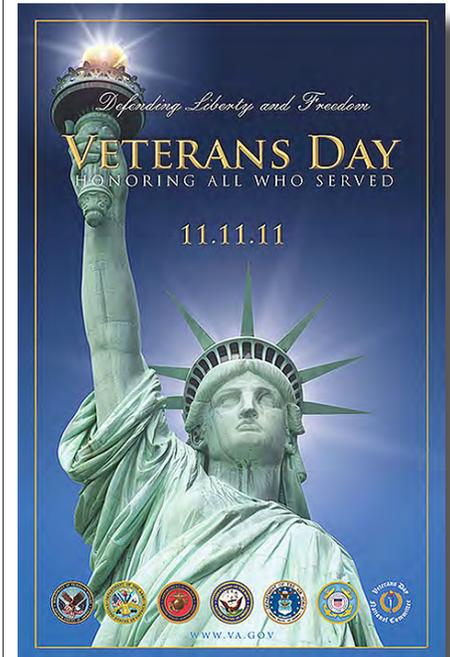
On the Front Burner

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staff so well represented at the meetings. I encourage those who have not yet been involved to get involved and those who have been involved to stay involved. I look forward to seeing you and hearing what you have to say at the next meeting!

Employees Invited to "Honoring Our Veterans"

Town of Chapel Hill employees who are veterans or who have family members in active duty will be recognized for their service and sacrifice by the Mayor and Town Council in advance of Veterans Day. This special recognition will take place at the beginning of the Council meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9. Please join us.



Cal Horton Award

Nominations for the Cal Horton Service Award have been received. The Committee will forward its recommendation to the Manager for approval. The nominees and recipient will be announced at the Nov. 18 Longevity Breakfast. Look for more information in the November TOWNtalk.

2020

CHAPEL HILL
OUR TOWN. OUR VISION.

Town employees are encouraged to participate in Chapel Hill 2020 either as participants in one of the theme areas or as volunteers. Information gathered will be used to reexamine and redefine the priorities and vision for the town and its future for the next 10 years. Opportunities abound, and you are needed! Please contact Faith Thompson at 969-5068 to learn more.

Our Employees: Creative, Healthy & Smart

Write a Poem for the Word Project

**Town of Chapel Hill Employee poetry/lyric writing contest
In honor and celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Win cash and other prizes. Have your poem/lyric featured on Chapel Hill buses or displayed at the Community Center or at the Town Operation Center

Town Employees, show off your talent for verse by writing a poem/lyric emphasizing either the values espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Brotherhood, Non-Violence, Justice, Morality or Action) or based on any direct quote from Dr. King. All poetry forms will be accepted—(metered verse, haiku, free form, musical lyric, etc.

Entries will be judged by special guest judge Michael Irwin, local poet, writer and

English Teacher at Chapel Hill High School.

Winning entries will receive the following awards:

- First Place - \$100
- Second Place - \$50
- Third Place - \$25
- Honorable Mention - \$15

In addition, the winners will have their poems/lyrics displayed on bus cards in Chapel



Hill Transit buses from January through March 2012. Winners will also have the opportunity to read/perform their poems/lyrics at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Employee Celebration to be held at Hargraves Center on Jan. 13.

All poems submitted will be displayed at the Community Center and at Public Works.

The Chapel Hill Public Arts Office, Chapel Hill Transit, Parks & Recreation Department and the juror, reserve the right to accept or deny any entry for any reason including, but not limited to, appropriateness for display in a public space.

The Word Project is organized and sponsored by the Town of Chapel Hill Public & Cultural Arts office in conjunction with the Chapel Hill Transit, Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments.

—Jeffrey York, Public Arts

You still have time to do the Health Risk Assessment! The Wellness@Work HRA Fair was a success. We have had one third of all employees participate!

You can take the HRA **any time** - just go online (www.uncwellnessatwork.org) or call 919-968-2796 to make an appointment. It includes a basic questionnaire about your health, weight, blood pressure and non-fasting labs. You will still be eligible for the \$25 gift card. Additional incentives for wellness goals will be outlined in the next issue.

Jennie will be onsite at Transit in November and December to complete HRAs. We are planning a second HRA Fair in January ...stay tuned!

—Jennie Petruney, Employee Wellness Center

Students Test Water Quality

Eighth grade teachers and students, in collaboration with the Town of Chapel Hill, UNC and OWASA, have started a water quality testing program as part of the eighth grade Science curriculum.

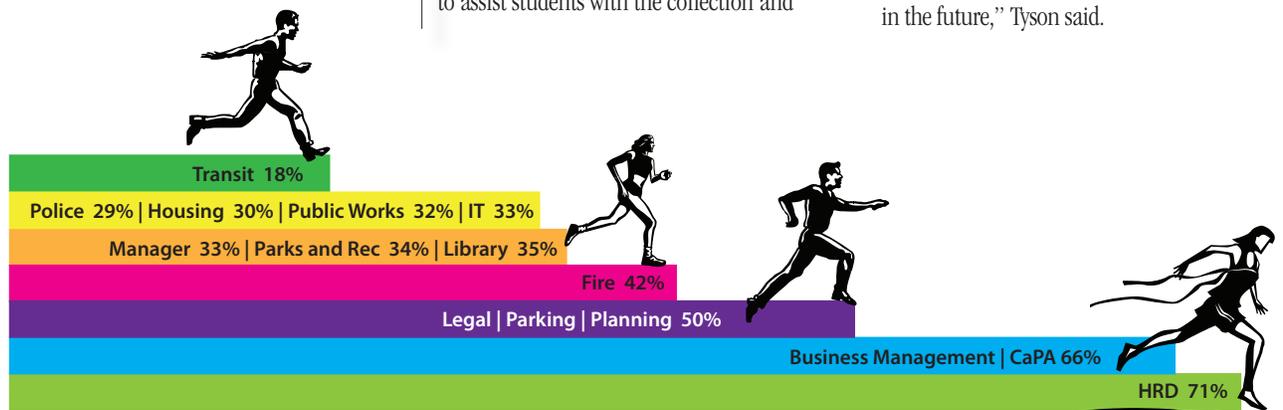
Students recently completed their first round of water quality testing on a small groundwater stream located at the bottom of drainage basin behind the school. Students spent two days completing on site testing for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, nitrates and temperature as they study their water quality unit.

Wendy Smith (Public Works/Stormwater Management), worked with fellow teachers to assist students with the collection and

analysis of their data. Students also compared their findings in their local stream to other waterways throughout the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area.

Culbreth Middle School has agreed to adopt the stream and serve as future stewards to maintain the healthy water quality of the waterway by cleaning trash and continually testing the water.

Brian Tyson and Steve Addison, eighth grade teachers at Culbreth, thanked the community for assisting them bringing high quality science instruction to all students. “We believe this is the start of a great partnership between Culbreth and our local science professionals, and we look forward to expanding the program in the future,” Tyson said.



Percentage of employees (by department) who have completed the Health Risk Assessment