



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

November 2011
Vol. 8, No. 3

www.townofchapelhill.org

On the Front Burner



Rog

The Chapel Hill 2020 Themes:

Based on feedback collected from the community in the first several CH2020 meetings, six themes were developed that reflect what people believe are the most important to focus on in the development of the new comprehensive plan. The themes identified are as follows:

- Good Places and New Spaces: Downtown & Development
- Town and Gown: Learning and Innovation
- Getting Around: Transportation
- Community Prosperity and Engagement: Fiscal Sustainability and Public Safety
- A Place for Everyone: Diversity, Cultural Vibrancy and the Arts
- Nurturing Our Community: Environmental Sustainability.

People who attend the CH2020 meetings over the next several months will have an opportunity engage in facilitated “theme group” discussions about the future of the Town from the standpoint of whichever theme group they wish to participate in. These discussions are an opportunity for the community—anyone who lives, works, plays or studies in Chapel Hill—to share interests and concerns that are of particular importance to them.

As I have stated before, you are a major stakeholder in the Chapel Hill 2020 efforts. Each of your departments has a direct relationship with at least one of the themes outlined above. For example, “Good Places and New Spaces” pertains

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Lynne Wade

Secretary/Receptionist

Joined Town: Jan. 2, 2008

When you call the Human Resource Development Department, chances are the cheerful voice that answers the phone will be that of Lynne Wade. She answers the main HRD phone number, staffs the front desk, and provides administrative support for the department. She also assists with Health and Wellness programs.

Lynne always strives to give excellent service, whether she is directing an employee to the appropriate person to assist them or directing a call from a resident.

Lynne says her job can be challenging at times, but it makes her feel good to be able to make someone smile, especially when they might be going through difficult times. Lynne believes that everyone matters, and she tries to treat everyone with respect and kindness.

Lynne says HRD is a tight-knit department with a great boss. She feels they are fortunate to have such a good relationship.

Lynne lives in Graham, where she is a member of Hawfields Presbyterian Church. She has a 24-year-old son, Cameron, two

Value in the Spotlight

Communication



Melanie Miller photo

grandchildren, and a five-year-old cocker spaniel, Shadow Jeanine.

Lynne’s parents both served in the Armed Forces, and the family settled in North Carolina when her father retired in 1962. Lynne attended Johnston Technical College in Raleigh. Prior to her current job, she worked for five years in payroll and HR with UNC Healthcare.

“Laughter is the best medicine, so I prescribe it often.”

COMING UP

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.

Friday, Dec. 9: Deadline to enter Word poetry/lyric competition. Information: jjork@townofchapelhill.org or 968-2750

Happy Thanksgiving!



The Chapel Hill 2020 Open House featured Town services, including the Fire Department. **Diana Harris and Lisa Edwards** staffed this booth.

In Brief

Heather Robinson (Fire) has been selected as Chapel Hill's 2011 Firefighter of the Year.

Heather is a tireless energy in the Department; working on her Engine crew at Station #4, serving as a puppeteer in the Fire Safety programs for children, serving as a board member for the Chapel Hill Firefighter's Association, working directly for the Town Manager on the Employee Health Initiative Task Group, and serving on the Working Relationships Committee for the Fire Chief. She is always one of the first to step up when a colleague needs help and always makes herself available for special events or projects. She is an outstanding representative of the Fire Service spirit of duty, honor, courage and service.

Heather will be honored on the evening of Dec. 13 at the Community Heroes' ceremonies sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to Heather and also to **Jimmy Spero** (Fire) who received an honorable mention from the selection committee for his contributions to the advancement of the CHFD.

Congratulations to Advanced Roads Scholar Graduates **Kenneth Jones** and **Santiago Hernandez** (both Public Works) and Roads Scholar Graduates **Travis Alston**, **Devorio Evans** and **Jayson Staley** (all Public Works). Roads Scholars complete training sessions in road fundamentals, including safety, drainage, and snow and ice removal.

The **2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics** campaign has raised a grand TOTAL of \$976,000 statewide for Special Olympics!! The Chapel Hill Police Department raised \$46,710, fourth in the state behind Charlotte-Mecklenburg PD (\$68,091), Guilford County Sheriff's Office (\$64,433) and the NC State University Police Department (\$47,557). Thanks to everyone for their continued support for a great and wonderful cause!!!

There are still a few t-shirts available for \$10



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

Thank You, Veterans!

Town of Chapel Hill employees who are veterans or who have family members in active duty were recognized for their service and sacrifice by the Mayor and Town Council in advance of Veterans Day on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt presented the Veterans Day Proclamation to **Robbie Borgesi** (Fire), who accepted the honor on behalf of all employee



veterans. Thank you to all our veterans and their families!

each. To purchase one, contact **Phil Smith** (Police) at 968-2760 ext. 134.

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, attend one of the remaining two sessions.

- Dec. 7, 10 a.m., Transit
- Dec. 9, 10 a.m., Transit

Update on Payroll and Benefits

Please notify Payroll about temps that no longer work for the Town and can be removed from the payroll list. They should be notified if it has been more than 90 days since a temp has worked for the Town.

The holiday calendar has been approved for 2012 and will be distributed electronically.

There are still a few EEOC trainings left. If you haven't attended yet, please do so ASAP. Department heads will shortly be sent a list of those who have not attended.

The December Payroll and Benefits meeting has been cancelled.

Emily Cameron (Public Works) organized the Town's Arbor Day celebration with a tree-planting ceremony on Nov. 18 at Burlington Park. Students from Ephesus Elementary School helped plant an oak tree.

This is the 12th consecutive year that Chapel Hill has received national recognition as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Each year the Town celebrates trees at its Arbor Day ceremony by planting one or more trees at a Town-owned facility.

Library Now Open at University Mall

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011, was intended to be a "soft" start-up for the Library in its new University Mall location—a quiet opening of the doors with no advertising, no fanfare, just a small notice on the Library and Town web and Facebook pages. But that didn't go exactly as planned.

Communications and Public Affairs posted the following on Facebook and Twitter: "Woo-hoo! The library opens @ the mall on Saturday!" and the word spread like wildfire, especially among homeschoolers. Library staff and patrons alike emailed their friends and texted about the status of the opening.

"It's opening tomorrow!" "Are the doors open now?" "They've taken down the 'Closed' signs in the windows. . ."

So the morning of Oct. 15 saw a continuous stream of patrons returning their portion of the 50,000-item stash they had checked out to sustain them for the 2.5 weeks the Library was closed for the move—20,000 items more than normal.

The library's average Saturday checkout is around 3,500 items. On Oct. 15, it was 5,843 items.

Staff is excited about the amazing and overwhelming response. So far, 99.9 percent of the comments about the new space have been favorable. What do Town employees think? We want to hear from you.

Just a reminder: Anyone who works for the Town, or has retired from the Town, is eligible for a free library card, regardless of where they live. The library card is free, the DVDs are free, the CDs are free, children's programs are free. . . well, you get the picture. Check it out!

—Kathleen Thompson, Library

TOWNtalk, a publication for and about Town of Chapel Hill employees, is issued monthly September through June.
 It is printed on recycled paper.
 Please recycle with white paper.



Published by:
 Town of Chapel Hill
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SMT Notes

The following is a brief update of some of the items recently discussed 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.

Meeting Overload: We need to work to make meetings more productive. SMT members are encouraged to be more thoughtful about calling meetings that may not be absolutely necessary in favor of handling certain issues through email and/or phone calls. As meetings are established, test each other's assumptions about the need for the meeting, the topics that need to be discussed and who should attend. Of course, oftentimes meetings are necessary for a variety of reasons. When meetings are held, SMT members and their staff are encouraged to prepare agendas so that meetings are more likely to stay on task.

State of the Town: Roger will be meeting with staff members throughout the Town in the coming months to explain where we are as a Town with regard to current budget and economic realities, Chapel Hill 2020, and priority budgeting, among other items. Stay tuned for details about when and where Roger plans to be to deliver these important messages.

On the Front Burner

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to Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Business Management and Economic Development. "Community Prosperity and Engagement" pertains to the Police, Fire, CaPA, Housing, Business Management and Human Resource Development. "Getting Around" to Transit, Planning and Public Works. "A Place for Everyone" includes Library and Housing as well as Parks and Recreation. With this in mind, I encourage you to find a way to get involved and make your voice heard. As always, you can learn more and stay up-to-date by visiting the CH2020 blog at www.2020buzz.org and website at www.chapelhill2020.org.

Thanks for Making Halloween a Success

Dear Fellow Town of Chapel Hill Employees:

I wanted to personally take a moment to send out special thanks to all the Town Departments who helped us make another Halloween event a success. As you all know, Halloween is the biggest event we face as a Town on an annual basis and it impacts almost all Town employees in some way. Staff from a number of departments, including **Police, Fire, Public Works, Transit, Parks and Recreation, CaPA, Business Management, and Parking Services** devote hundreds of hours each and every year to make this unique event run smoothly and safely. If you were one of the many Town employees working the event, and regardless of your assignment, I want you to know that we in the Police Department are sympathetic to the impact of Halloween on your departments and we acknowledge the drains and stressors it places on each of you.

Each year, we are tasked with coming together as a team to manage this event and each year we meet that challenge head on. This year was no different and it is only through that collaborative effort that we succeed. It is also through that special collaboration that we continue to learn and identify things we all can improve upon for next time. I invite you to share your feedback with your department heads and with the Police Department's Special Events staff (Officer **Phil Smith**, Capt. **Jackie Carden**, and Asst. Chief **Bob Overton**). And thanks again for your continued dedication, professionalism and support.

Sincerely,
Christopher C. Blue
Chief of Police

2020

CHAPEL HILL
OUR TOWN. OUR VISION.

Chapel Hill 2020 Continues

The next meeting of the Chapel Hill 2020 community visioning process will be Saturday, Nov. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill High School, 1708 High School Road. The meeting will be held in the school cafeteria. Info: www.chapelhill2020.org

Sustainability and You



What is sustainability? Most people tend to agree that sustainability is not a "thing" but rather a guiding principle or philosophy. In that vein, sustainability can be seen as the pursuit of a future that provides people with the same essential opportunities that we all enjoy today.

Being sustainable is about making decisions and taking actions that are "future friendly." One can argue that not every opportunity we have today is essential or that it will be available in the future—no matter how hard we try. If that's the case, then maybe that opportunity wasn't really sustainable after all. On the other hand, if we can think of a different way to provide the same essential opportunity using means that will be available in the future, then perhaps the problem isn't the opportunity but instead the way that we are currently maintaining it.

Several examples of essential opportunities come to mind: transportation, jobs, housing, food, clean water, education, public health, recreational amenities, etc. The Chapel Hill 2020 process is a perfect example of where this type of thinking can help a community the most. After all, at its core Chapel Hill 2020 is a citizen-based process aimed at defining and targeting the community's most essential opportunities and figuring out ways of making them accessible to future generations.

In this way sustainability is so much more than environmental protection—it's about the downtown, economic development, learning and innovation, transportation, fiscal responsibility, public safety, diversity, cultural vibrancy and the arts, and any other key issue that emerges from the 2020 process.

—John Richardson, *Sustainability*



Allison Hinks (Public Works) dressed her Chihuahuas for Halloween. Ume, left, was a bumblebee, and Suzuki was a unicorn.



Wellness@Work

Fun HRA Facts:

- HRA stands for... Health Risk Assessment
- HRA can be taken any time – you will still receive your \$25 gift card!
- HRA questionnaire can be taken on-line before your appointment or at the time of your blood draw.
- HRA consists of 2 visits – The first to have your blood pressure and weight measured along with a blood draw (you do not have to be fasting). The second is to review your results and have a 30 minute consultation to review your overall health and develop your wellness goals. Many employees have found this visit very helpful and informative.
- You will need an appointment for both visits. The easiest way to make an appointment is on the Wellness at Work portal. www.uncwellnessatwork.org
- You can also call 968-2796 to make an appointment
- A second HRA Fair is being planned for January – stay tuned for details.

Do you know about the incentives?

You can earn up to \$225 in one year!



1. HRA - \$25 for first lab visit
2. \$100 to meet your goal in 6 months
3. \$100 to maintain your goal for an additional 6 months

Goals can be in one of 5 categories: Blood Pressure, Diabetes, High Cholesterol, Weight and Smoking

**Meet with Jennie for the HRA review visit to find out if you qualify!

Why should you participate in the wellness program?

- Participation will help to keep Blue Cross Premiums low for all employees – the greater the participation – the greater the savings
- Even if you have a doctor and regular physicals – a HRA review visit is a unique 30 minute visit to discuss your overall health and wellness at no cost to you!
- Same day access to a nurse practitioner for minor acute illness with no co-pay



Want to quit using tobacco?

Make an appointment online: www.uncwellnessatwork.org
Or call the clinic 968-2796 to find out more information

- Initial Assessment & Treatment Plan by an experienced Tobacco Treatment Specialist
- Medication Recommendations
- Ongoing Follow-up and Support
- No co-pay



Get Your Flu Shot!

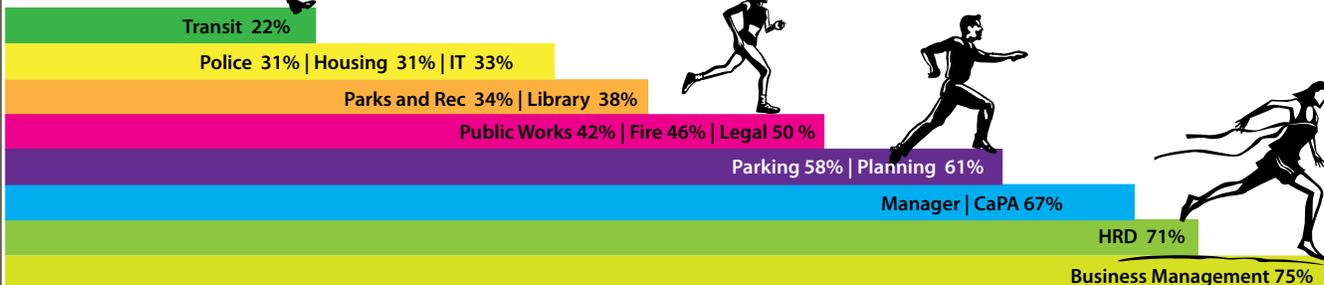
If you missed our Flu Shot Clinics, you can still get a free flu shot from Walgreens! You can go to any Walgreens and get a flu shot at no cost, as long as you present your BCBS of NC insurance card. There is no copay for this insurance plan for flu shots. If employees (or other covered family members) go to the Franklin Street Walgreen's location it usually takes less than 15 minutes to complete the process.

If you have any questions, contact Mike Beckman at mbeckman@townofchapelhill.org or 969-5035.

They Need Our Help

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation.

Our fall blood drive is scheduled right after Thanksgiving (from 8 to 11:45 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28). What better way to give thanks than to make a donation that can help save three lives! Please call or email Lynne Wade, at 969-5029 or lwade@townofchapelhill.org to sign up today!



Percentage of employees (by department) who have completed the Health Risk Assessment as of 10/31/2011