

# TOWNtalk

December 2004  
Vol. 1, No. 4



A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

[www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)

## A Short Report



A special thanks to all of the employees who provided such good services for Halloween in Chapel Hill.

Large numbers of employees from Police, Fire, and Public Works in conjunction with employees from other Town departments and workers from other cities and counties combined efforts for a well-managed event. Sanitation workers and other public works employees stayed on through the night and early morning hours to remove debris from the downtown and nearby neighborhoods. By sunrise downtown was even cleaner than usual.

Halloween is the biggest event that we manage, with attendance topping 80,000 this year. The careful preparations, excellent work, and cheerful approach of Town employees make Halloween a success. The crowds feel safe and receive respectful treatment. As a result, almost all in attendance are cooperative.

Compare our experience to that of some other communities where disorders, property damage, and violence occur when much smaller crowds gather for celebrations.

We may be a relatively small town, but Chapel Hill employees are the best when it comes to managing big events.

## COMING UP

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:**  
Nov. 25-26

**WINTER HOLIDAY:**  
Dec. 23-24,  
Dec. 27

**NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY:**  
Dec. 31

## Flora Parrish

**Records Supervisor**

**Joined Town:** 1969

**Department:** Police

**Duties:** Is it a larceny or a vehicle break-in? Parrish will make sure the right crime and code is on the report. She oversees all records, including police reports and vehicle impoundments; taxi inspections and permitting; and parking appeals.

**Personal:** Her passion is crafts – candle making, cake decorating, sewing and even clock making. She regards family as life's most precious asset. Her husband is Bobby; and they have two daughters: Angela and Debra. Her mother, the late Willie Mae Houk, was a much-loved short order cook at Sutton's Drug Store.

## In the Spotlight



**Noteworthy:** Our senior-most employee with 35 years, she began work at the former Town Hall at 100 W. Rosemary St.

**Philosophy:** "I try to put myself in the shoes of the public, even if I have answered the same question a million times before. People deserve to be treated with dignity and respect."

## Happy Hallo-wedding!



**Colleen Lanigan** was the Bride of Frankenstein for Halloween – quite literally, as she wed Frank Mangieri, alias Frankenstein, at a wedding themed around Halloween. The ceremony took place at Camp Royall in Moncure on Oct. 30, and was attended by about 250 important guests, including many from the Chapel Hill Special Olympics, a program she leads at Parks and Recreation. All enjoyed the wedding cake – a three-tiered purple haunted house decorated with a cemetery and pumpkin patch. The cake inside was velvet red.

# In Brief

Employees were honored for their years of service to the Town. Public Works employees (l-r) **Philander Logan**, who has five years of service, and **Douglas Fisk**, honored for 20



years, enjoyed refreshments in Town Hall at the Nov. 12 recognition ceremony. **Mayor Kevin Foy** made a special appearance to recognize the years of service of Deputy Manager **Flo Miller** and Manager **Cal Horton** (pictured, at right above). For a complete listing of employees honored, please see page 4. More photos from the event are available at [TOWNnews](http://TOWNnews.org/news) online: [www.townofchapelhill.org/news](http://www.townofchapelhill.org/news).



**Stanley Ferrington** was selected as the Public Works Employee of the Month for October. He works in Field Operations.



**READING BY CRAYONLIGHT** – *Library children's services staff members dress up as crayons for Halloween Storytime. From left to right are Karin Micbel, Susan Smialowicz, Frances Rapley, Ellen Decker and Kathleen Pierce, a UNC School of Information and Library Science intern.*

Congratulations to **Valerie Foushee** (Police) for her election in November to the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

**Mona Nazir** (IT) and her husband, Imran, became proud parents of a healthy daughter named Alisha Shereen on Nov. 3.

**All employees** are thanked for making the 2004 Combined Campaign a success. The campaign raised \$23,616, which surpassed last year's total by more than \$1,000. Thanks to all – especially **Carol Abernethy** (Manager), who served as campaign chair.



The Town has received the highest form of recognition in governmental financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

The Town was presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Financial Report. It has

received the award for the past 19 years.



The Town completed an audit of its Police Department by the Department of Labor, and met all audit requirements with a minor exception – an adjustment of \$111 for an \$18 million payroll over a two-year period.

Town Manager Cal Horton said the audit was described as a routine review by the Department of Labor, which began its inquiry in August. The Town completed the final documents to close the audit on Nov. 1.

“We were found to be in compliance with all audit requirements, with minor exceptions,” Horton said. “I am proud of our staff for the prompt, careful and professional way that they worked with the Department of Labor auditor.”

Employees who assisted with the audit are **Kristi McClellan** (Finance), and **Lisa Edwards** (Police) and **Valerie Foushee** (Police).



The Town has hired **William Letteri** as its new Public Works director.

Letteri has spent the past 11 years as chief of administration and facilities management in the public works department in Charlottesville, Va. He will start in Chapel Hill on Dec. 6.

“We’re fortunate to have attracted such a talented leader to our Public Works Department,” said Town Manager Cal Horton. “Bill will provide strong operational direction. He also will give high priority to employee training and development so that we can continue to deliver top quality public works service.”

A national search was conducted to fill the position, which was vacated in January by Bruce Heflin, now assistant Town manager.

Letteri’s tenure with the city of Charlottesville includes senior management of engineering, street maintenance, refuse collection, building and grounds maintenance, capital improvement programs, and water and wastewater operations. He has held previous positions in private businesses involved in construction and finance.



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# Employee Forum



## Drawing for computer loans

The deadline is Nov. 30 to enter a drawing for the Employee Computer Loan Program. Employees can sign up with representatives from the Employee Forum. Information Technology will provide 10 computers for loan to employees for a period of one year. The computers are Dell GX200 (Pentium III 933 Mhz Processor) with 128 megabytes of memory, CD burners, the Windows 2000 operating system, a 19-gigabyte hard drive, and a network card. The computers are not equipped with modems for Internet use.

Winning names will be picked from a hat at the next meeting of the Forum to be held in the HR Training Room of Town Hall on Dec. 9.

## Human Resources

Dec. 10 is the last day to submit paperwork to the Human Resources Department if you are planning to participate in the Flexible Spending Account program. Info: 968-2700.

# Recycling

## News & Notes from Orange County Recycling

When hosting a holiday party, don't forget about recycling all your cans and bottles. Take unserved holiday food to the homeless shelter or a local food pantry. To otherwise reduce waste consider giving a gift of time such as babysitting, a home-cooked meal or movie, music or theater tickets instead of a gift that may not be needed or wanted. Enjoy your holidays with family and friends.

If everyone in Orange County recycled two more aluminum cans a week we would recycle an additional 12 million cans a year.



## Town Operations Center Groundbreaking participants included (l-r)

architect Ken Redfoot, Transportation Director Mary Lou Kuschatka, engineer Mike Hammersley, architect Mark Zack, TOC project assistant Sonna Loewenthal, Council Member Jim Ward, Mike Kozak of the N.C. DOT, Gay Eddy of Congressman David Price's office, Council Member Ed Harrison, Mayor Kevin Foy, Assistant Town Manager Bruce Heflin and Town Manager Cal Horton.

Overcast, blustery skies could not dim the sunny mood of Town leaders as they broke ground Oct. 29 on the largest capital project in Town of Chapel Hill history.

The \$42.9 million facility on Millhouse Road north of Eubanks Road will house the Public Works and Transportation departments, which are required to vacate their current, UNC-owned site along Airport Road by the end of 2006. The project will reflect the Council's key values of sustainability, environmental sensitivity and fiscal prudence.

The groundbreaking marked the first work to be completed on the site, which includes clearing and grubbing, preliminary grading and installation of sediment control measures and stormwater controls. This first phase of work should be completed by next spring. Construction is expected to begin in early 2005.

The entire lot is 89 acres with the center complex occupying about 54 acres. Design work is under way by local architects Corley Redfoot Zack.

## Clerk to become fulltime Grandma

Town Clerk **Joyce Smith** will be honored for her years of service at a retirement celebration to be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 30 in the Council Chamber of Town Hall.

Smith came to the Town 23 years ago as a word processor when the required typing speed was 100 words per minute. She used to convert longhand notes into neatly typed official documents. Precision was aided only by close attention and a small rectangular piece of chalky white paper called correction tape. She notes many technological changes over more than two decades. The tradition remaining — a keen interest in serving citizens.

"I started with a routine job as typist," Smith said. "I read what I was typing — meeting agendas, manuals and inventories — and soon knew everything about everything."

Today Smith is one of only 16 clerks from 550 municipalities throughout North Carolina to have earned the distinction of master

municipal clerk.

"It's hard to imagine Town Hall without Joyce," said Town Manager Cal Horton. "Her devotion to this community and its public business is unmatched."



Town Clerk Joyce Smith

In November, Smith received the President's Choice Award for Volunteer Service from the Orange County Disability Council for distinguished service over 13 years.

Smith will continue on a temporary basis as a part-time Town employee. However, most of the time she will be involved at home as a fulltime grandmother. The manager appointed **Sandy Cook** to serve as the interim clerk while applicants are reviewed for the position, which is expected to be filled by January 2005.

# Compliments

Praise  
from  
Citizens



**Sandy Cook** (Clerk) was thanked for getting information to citizens about upcoming Council meeting topics. "I want to thank you for the effort that you take to get this information to those who have expressed a concern on particular topics," wrote Steven Moore on Oct. 21. "I know this is part of your job, but we in Chapel Hill often fail to be grateful that our Town employees make this extra effort to provide us quality service. The service is appreciated and the attention to detail to provide the service is equally appreciated. Thank you on a continuing basis for a job well done!"

**EZ Rider Service staff** (Transportation) were complimented in a Sept. 13 letter from Loretta Perry, who has been using the service for almost a year. "You have a wonderful group of people working for your organization both in the dispatch staff as well as your drivers. I find them to be courteous, helpful and efficient." EZ Rider again was praised in Sept. 14 correspondence from Alberta Freund, who said the service was "an immense benefit" to her mother, offering her independence and travel for the past 10 years.



## Welcome new employees!

**Wallace Thompson** (Public Works),  
Construction Worker

**Wendy Smith** (Engineering), Engineering Technician

**Jon Ellington** (Public Works), Assistant Arborist

**Dexter Smith** (Public Works), Solid Waste Collector

## Retirees

**Billy McCauley** (Public Works), Solid Waste  
Equipment Operator II (4/6/72 - 12/31/2004)

**Henry Turrentine** (Transportation), Transit  
Operator II (10/9/84 - 12/31/2004)

## Employees honored for service

Employees who reached their service milestone from May to August of 2004 were honored on Nov. 12. Congratulations to those listed below! Employees with 20 or more years of service by Nov. 30 and employees who retired during the current calendar year will be invited to the Longevity Breakfast to be held at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 3, at the Hargraves Recreation Center.

### 5 Years

Timeka Harper-Purcell (Transportation),  
3/29/1999  
Darren Purdee (Transportation), 3/29/1999  
Philander Logan (Public Works), 5/10/1999  
Jonathan Powell (Transportation), 5/2/1999  
Charles Greg Ling (Public Works), 5/24/1999  
Dana Richardson (Police), 6/1/1999  
Michael Ward (Fire), 7/10/1999  
Byron Greeson (Fire), 7/19/1999  
Robb English (Parks & Recreation), 7/29/1999  
Joseph Moffitt (Transportation), 8/2/1999  
Beverly Burcher (Library), 8/16/1999

### 10 Years

Loryn Barnes (Planning), 7/19/1994  
Bonnie House (Police), 7/21/1994  
Sim Burnett (Housing), 7/25/1994  
M. Tommy Gregory (Fire), 8/23/1994  
Willie Quick (Police), 8/25/1994  
Andrew Smith (Police), 8/25/1994

### 15 Years

W. Calvin Horton (Manager), 6/12/1989  
Florentine Miller (Manager), 6/26/1989  
Kay Tapp (Planning), 8/14/1989  
Dennis Jordan (Fire), 8/15/1989  
John Mckerlie (Police), 8/15/1989  
Charles Quinlan (Police), 8/15/1989

### 20 Years

George Small (Engineering), 6/13/1984  
Douglas Fisk (Public Works), 6/25/1984  
Ozetar Gaskin (Public Works), 6/26/1984  
Tim Smith (Public Works), 8/1/1984  
Melvin Smith (Police), 8/1/1994

### 25 Years

Randel Riggsbee (Public Works), 6/9/1979  
Lloyd Ross (Public Works), 7/1/1979  
Britt Sanders (Transportation), 8/11/1979

### 30 Years

Jane Dyer (Library), 7/15/1974



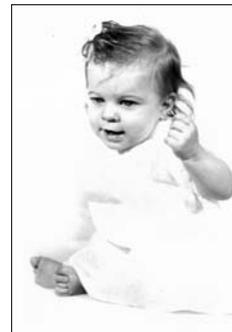
Facts,  
figures  
and trivia

## Who Knew?



## And the winners are . . .

Several readers correctly identified last month's baby face, **Brenda Jones** (Finance), superintendent of Parking Services. A drum major in high school, Jones now sings in her church choir and especially loves gospel music and Patty LaBelle. She is two classes away from a business administration degree from Strayer University. The first to e-mail Jones' identity was **Kristi McClellan** (Finance), and other successful guessers included **Maggie Burnett** (Public Works), **Jeanne Erwin** (Finance) and **Tracy Dudley** (Finance), who started with the Town 18 years ago, on the exact same day and in the same department as Jones (their employee numbers are consecutive).



## She loves the nightlife!

Born and raised in New Jersey, she aspired to be a professional dancer and once danced on the steel pier in Atlantic City, N.J. She loves

animals, the beach and nature — as well as dancing classes and body building. She has three grown children and seven grandchildren. She joined the Town in 1991.

Send your guesses to Catherine Lazorko  
at [clazorko@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:clazorko@townofchapelhill.org)  
or 968-2893.