

TOWNtalk

November 2004
Vol. 1, No. 3



A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

www.townofchapelhill.org



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Hundreds of Town employees from Police, Fire, Public Works and other departments are preparing for Halloween along Franklin Street, an annual tradition expected to attract a crowd of about 70,000 people. The event will happen on Sunday, Oct. 31.

Expenses for last year's celebration totaled more than \$130,000 to hire police officers, as well as additional parking and cleaning crews. This year, more than 300 officers will be brought in from neighboring jurisdictions.

It will be a particularly busy weekend downtown as UNC-Chapel Hill celebrates Homecoming weekend and Tar Heels Football takes on the Miami Hurricanes at Kenan Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 30.

Town staff members answering questions about street closures, parking, shuttle buses and more may find detailed information at *TOWNnews* online at www.townofchapelhill.org/news/index.html.

Regrettably,

Flu shots will not be offered by the Town to employees this year due to the nationwide shortage of the influenza vaccine.

William Barnett Jr.

In the Spotlight

Part-Time Driver

Joined Town: 1993

Department:
Transportation

Duties: Driver of EZ Rider van, a special service which uses lift-equipped vehicles to transport individuals who have mobility limitations that prevent them from using Chapel Hill Transit's regular bus service. When not driving for Chapel Hill Transit two nights a week and one day on the weekend, Barnett is a crew leader for Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), where he is in charge of a six-person maintenance team. In 2002, he received a Special Recognition Award from the Orange County Disability Awareness Council.

Philosophy: "Always do more than is expected and unexpected gifts will come to you."

Personal:
He and wife, Pearl, raised two children: Bobby, a computer



operations analyst, and Eric, a utility mechanic. Their youngest son, William III, is a freshman at East Chapel Hill High School. When not watching his son play high school football, Barnett works in his family's outreach ministry, God's Property, which is a Durham church that assists recovering addicts.

Nomination Quote:

"William Barnett is a hard working employee who provides outstanding service to the disabled community in the late evening hours," said Transportation Assistant Director Kurt Neufang. "He is active in civic work outside of our department, and we are proud that he is part of the Chapel Hill Transit team."

COMING UP

HALLOWEEN: Oct. 31

ELECTION DAY: Nov. 2

VETERANS DAY: Nov. 11
American flags will be flying in downtown Chapel Hill.
(This is not a Town holiday.)

ARBOR DAY: Nov. 19

Old Chapel Hill Cemetery. Time TBA. This is the fifth year that Chapel Hill has received national recognition as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Info: Emily Cameron, 968-2800 ext. 128

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:
Nov. 25-26

In Brief

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce presented several awards to employees at a ceremony held Oct. 7 at UNC-Chapel Hill's Friday Center.

The Chapel Hill Firefighter of the Year Award went to **Ryan E. Depew**. The committee that selected him cited him for his work ethic, positive attitude and personality.

The Chapel Hill Police Department named two of its officers as Officers of the Year — Investigator **Joe DiCostanzo** and Lt. **Jeff Clark**. DiCostanzo holds a master's in social work and joined the department in October 2003. He investigates crimes committed by and against juveniles. Clark has been active in crime prevention and mentors young police officers.

The Chamber also gave the Chapel Hill Police Department \$6,500 to buy and train a new police dog. The Chamber raised \$500 to get a fourth dog for the department, and Mary Ellen Kay, a newcomer to the community, donated the remaining \$6,000.

Matt Sullivan, a crisis counselor at the Police Department, received the Friend of Education Award from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Association of Educators in May. The award is given by educators in the school system and recognizes dedication and service to students and the schools by a person who is not employed by the schools. "This is a reflection of the great work that everyone in the Police Department does in working with the schools and the school community," Sullivan said.

Brown Bag Lunch & Learn

"Maximizing Your Pharmacy Benefit"
1-2 p.m. Nov. 4
Chapel Hill Library Conference Room
Call Donna at 968-2700 to attend.



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Human Resources

Dental Plan enrollment open

Your once-a-year opportunity to add or cancel family members on your existing dental plan has arrived.

If you did not enroll last year during open enrollment or when you or your dependents were initially eligible, you will be considered a late entrant. Late entrant benefits will be limited preventive procedures only for the first 12 months.

This year, annual enrollment meetings for employees and/or family members will be held Nov. 1-5. The deadline for submitting enrollment or change forms is 5 p.m. on Nov. 16. Camelia Brooks-Brooks from the Human Resources Department will be present at all meetings and available to answer questions: 968-2700.

Nov. 1

9 - 10:30 a.m. — Town Hall,
(HR Training Room)
10:45 - 11:45 a.m. — Fire Dept
(2nd floor Classroom)
2 - 3 p.m. — Transportation (Breakroom)
6 - 7 p.m. — Police Department
(2nd floor Conference Room)

Nov. 2

9 - 10 a.m. — Fire Department
(2nd floor Classroom)
11 a.m. - noon — Housing Dept (Conference Room)
2 - 3 p.m. — Parks & Recreation
(Conference Room)

Nov. 3

9 - 10 a.m. — Police Department
(2nd floor Classroom)
11 a.m. - noon — Transportation Department
(Operations Break Area)

Nov. 4

9 - 10 a.m. — Town Hall
(HR Training Room)
10:15 - 11:45 a.m. — Library
(Basement Conference Room w/windows)
Noon - 1 p.m. — Public Works
(Sanitation Meeting Room)

The Flexible Spending Account

The Human Resources Department has arranged information sessions for employees to learn more about the Flexible Spending Account program, an employer-sponsored benefit that allows you to pay for certain non-covered medical, dental, vision or prescription drug expenses with pre-taxed income. The plan year will begin Jan. 1, 2005, and ends Dec. 31, 2005. The last day to sign up and submit your paperwork to Human Resources will be Dec. 10, 2004.

Please plan to attend one of the following meetings to learn more:

Nov. 16

1 - 2 p.m. — Chapel Hill Town Hall (HR Training Room)
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. — Parks & Recreation
(Conference Room)
4 - 5 p.m. — Housing Department
(Conference Room)
6 - 7 p.m. — Police Department (2nd floor Conference Room)

Nov. 17

9 - 10 a.m. — Chapel Hill Town Hall
(HR Training Room)
11 a.m. - noon — Fire Department
(2nd floor Classroom)
1 - 2 p.m. — Northside Gym (meeting room)

Nov. 18

9 - 10 a.m. — Chapel Hill Public Library
(Conference Room)
11 a.m. - noon — Public Works (Sanitation Breakroom)
1 - 2 p.m. — Transportation (Breakroom)

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Employee Forum



Town representatives to the Employee Forum are slated for appointment following October elections. These officers will begin their duties at the next Forum meeting scheduled on Dec. 11.

The Employee Forum meets from 9 to 11 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Pending items include:

- Identifying ways to value diversity
- Suggesting policy enhancements to benefit employees
- Ensuring that disciplinary actions are equally applied between departments
- Making recommendations regarding the hiring/selection process
- Encouraging support for pay increases

For more information visit <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/eforum/>

Recycling

Orange Community Recycling is seeking Town contacts to serve as liaisons between their departments and the division of the Orange County Solid Waste Management Department that provides recycling services to all Town buildings (as well as throughout Orange County including curbside, multifamily, dropoff, hazardous waste, electronics recycling and education).

The division provides deskside recycling containers. It answers waste reduction and recycling questions, and collects recyclables. Later this year, intern Tim Love will be contacting Town departments to follow up on the 2003 waste audit and determine waste reduction and recycling progress.

If you need a bin, have questions or would like to be a department recycling contact, call 968-2788 or email recycling@co.orange.nc.us. Being a recycling contact is minimal work, but the rewards are great!

Festive and Friendly: FESTIFALL

There are myriad details to manage in the community's large public gatherings — whether upcoming Halloween or the last fair on Franklin Street, Festifall on Oct. 3.

High compliments went to the Parks and Recreation Department for Festifall, a well-planned, friendly and festive event. Parks and Recreation plans, organizes and implements the fair, along with assistance from Public Works, Police and Fire. Other departments also participate by offering information about Town services to citizens.

At right, photos show the Town's public outreach during Festifall: 1. Ready to help answer event questions are Stan Foushee and Sonya Reddick (Sonya's name will be changing to Shaw. Be sure to offer wedding congratulations to her!); 2. Reserve Officer Eric Dallin offers cotton candy to a young child; 3. Parks and Recreation "event staff" distribute free swimming and gym passes; 4. Outside the "Cops in the Community" display are (left to right) Art Englehardt (Office of Senior Services), Officer John Wagner and Marsha Adams from EMS; 5. Residents review bus routes at the Chapel Hill Transit information center; and 6. Visitors stop at the main fair booth.

Feedback from fairgoers and vendors help measure our success. Dan and Fran Bowes of Perennial Pottery wrote on Oct. 3 to thank all the Town staff involved in Festifall: "First and foremost, my compliments to the festival staff. Every single one of them were kind, courteous and informative. The help they gave to the vendors — in directing traffic, assisting with the complexity of setting up, and the frustrations of breaking down — made the whole experience that much less traumatic.

"The public should also be thanked. They were curious, enthralled with our creations, and delightful in conversation. All in all, the day was most enjoyable, profitable, and will always remain a bright spot in our festival schedules."

A special thanks to the police officers of your Town. They were polite and helpful, and it was fun to watch them enjoying their serious duties. A very special thanks to the unknown officer who watched my hand truck, I had to leave it unattended, while I took a customer's purchase up the stairs, to deliver to his car. I consider it above and beyond!"



1



2



3



4



5



6

Compliments

Praise
from
Citizens



Michele Lynn sent high compliments on Oct. 5 to the Chapel Hill Library: "I am writing to let you know that I think the Chapel Hill Public Library is a great resource in our community. I imagine that you often get emails from people complaining how their tax money is used so I decided instead to write this email commending a town-funded service. The library is a wonderful resource, particularly in the area of children's services. **Karin Michel**, the head children's librarian, and her staff do a great job of providing programs and services. My son and I are big fans of the library!"

Police officers **Gabe Shinn** and **Scott Taylor** were commended in a Sept. 15 letter from a resident for "their very professional and compassionate handling of a delicate situation" involving her teenage son.

Curtis Cecil and **Ernestine Garrett** (Transportation) were thanked on Sept. 3 by Silvia Bettez for retrieving her cell phone that she inadvertently left on the bus. "As soon as I realized this, I called the lost and found number in the Chapel Hill Transit Guide. The woman I spoke with put me on hold and called the bus driver who fortunately had my phone. Less than a half an hour later I met up with the NS bus as it circled around, and the gentleman behind the wheel handed me back my cell phone with a smile."

Anne Brown (Transportation) and Chapel Hill Transit's EZ rider service were praised highly in an Aug. 24 letter from Jo Alice Stuckey, a 75-year-old resident of an assisted living facility: "Ann Brown, whom I speak to when I make reservations, is a doll! And so pleasant and helpful — please give her a big boost. Her voice is wonderful and caring, and I love talking to her! The drivers are so pleasant and caring, and they make you feel 'right at home.'"

Larry Cates (Transportation) is a "wonderful driver, courteous and polite, and one of the nicest" according to a caller who did not leave her name with the compliment on Sept. 3.

Step It UP!

Q: I have fallen behind in the program. Do I need to turn in my pedometer?

A: No, just start now!

- Walk your usual number of steps for about a week to get a baseline.
- Log your steps into the *Step It Up!* log book on page 8, and submit your log summary (white copy) to your Healthy Balance Team Leader.
- Total the number of steps you have walked during the baseline period and divide by the number of days you used your pedometer and logged your steps. This will be your average number of steps per day for your baseline week.
- Check out page 7 of your *Step It Up!* log book to see which week you have started the program. Log the average steps on the page that correlates to the week you are starting the program. Decide on your goal for the next week. Example: You started the program on Oct. 4, so week 7 is baseline, week 8 is your first Step It Up! week. Keep logging your steps.
- Submit your first quarter summary logs to your Healthy Balance Team Leader by Nov. 22.



Welcome new employees!

Timothy Bethea (Public Works), Construction Worker
Christopher Kelly (Police), Police Officer
Paul Bell (Police), Police Officer
Jimmy Lambert (Fire), Firefighter

Town Clerk to Retire

Town Clerk Joyce Smith will be retiring after 23 years with the Town in November. A retirement party will be held on Nov. 30 (time TBA) in the Council Chamber. Information: 968-2743.



Facts,
figures
and trivia

Who Knew?



And the winner is . . .

Deborah Squires (Engineering) guessed the identity of this adorable baby face, Susie Whaley. Well done, Deborah!

Susan "Susie" Sorrell Whaley

Landscape Supervisor, Public Works
 "Born and raised in southern Durham County before the age of video games and computers, I learned the finer points of making mud pies and skipping rocks over water. I am married to Chuck, my husband of 29 years and have two sons: Nicholas, age 25, and Eric, 21. I enjoy listening to all kinds of music, garden design, jewelry design with wire and beads, sailing and I'm a newly trained literacy tutor with the Durham Literacy Center."

Can you guess this baby face?

A drum major in high school, she 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. She has worked for the Town for 18 years.

Send your guesses to clazorko@townofchapelhill.org or call Catherine Lazorko at 968-2893.

