

TOWNtalk

September 2004
Vol. 1, No. 1



A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

www.townofchapelhill.org

Short Report



We're back! This is the first edition of the new newsletter for Town Employees, and we're glad to be back. Town Information Officer

Catherine Lazorko is the publisher, editor, reporter, layout artist and circulation manager. She will be assisted by volunteer reporters from every department.

We will do our best to make *TOWNtalk* a source of timely and useful information that will be of interest to all employees. Your feedback on this first issue and all that follow will help us make improvements and will be appreciated.

TOWNtalk will be published in both print and electronic form so that all employees will have easy access to it. It will be distributed with the first paychecks of each month with a summer hiatus in July and August.

Thanks to all who helped get this first edition out the door and on the Web.

Cal Horton
Town Manager

James Huggins Sr Engineering Technician

Joined Town: 1997

Department: Engineering

Duties: Assists the Town surveyor in collection of data. Expert in CAD (computer-aided design) programs for engineering construction plans and plan review.

Philosophy: "Work to make yourself happy, and the rest will take care of itself."

Personal: Newly married to Trace' Pittman on Aug. 13, 2004. Two children: Ashleigh, 21; and Matthew, 20. Enjoys landscaping, sports and reading. Pursuing studies to become a land surveyor.

Nomination Quote:

"James' work ethic is to take care of business, even if it is outside his direct scope of responsibilities," says Engineering Director George Small. "We rely on his expertise in computer-aided design and drafting."

In the Spotlight



Combined Campaign kickoff

The Town's annual Combined Campaign Kick-off will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17, at the Chapel Hill Library. Employees are invited to learn more about the campaign and enjoy hot dogs, games, baked goods and a raffle.

The annual combined campaign, the only charitable drive authorized to solicit Town employees for payroll deduction pledges, raises money for numerous carefully screened agencies, including a wide variety of health care, service and environmental organizations. Agencies include the American Red Cross, the Inter-Faith Council and the Women's Center.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPS

Contact your representative for more information or Campaign Chair Carol Abernethy at cabernethy@townofchapelhill.org.

Engineering: Jeannette Taylor

Finance: Lisa Taylor

Fire: Norman Clark

Housing: Ron Gallerani

Human Resources: Wendy Walsh

Information Technology: Terry Gearhart

Inspections: Angie Daulton

Library: Mark Bayles

Parks & Recreation: Kathryn Spatz

Planning: Gordon Sutherland

Police: Flora Parrish

Public Works: Kay McDaniel & Tim Smith

Transportation: Mary Lou Kuschatka

Administration, Attorney and Clerk:

Carol Abernethy, Campaign Chair

COMING UP

ACTIVE LIVING BY

DESIGN KICKOFF: Sept. 14

Learn about GO! Chapel Hill.

Kickoff: 10 a.m., Community Ctr.

CAR FREE DAY: Sept. 22

Pledge at www.gocarfree.com

to reduce or eliminate auto travel.

SOLAR HOUSE TOUR: Oct. 2

See pg. 3 for details.

FESTIFALL: Oct. 3

Come to Franklin Street and enjoy original arts and crafts, food, entertainment and the Kids Zone.

In Brief

News about us



Ryan Depew (above) was selected as the 2003 Firefighter of the Year for the Chapel Hill Fire Department. His co-workers found him exceptional for his work in fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and for his assistance to a Parkwood firefighter who lost his home in a fire. A selection committee cited his work ethic, positive attitude and personality. "I am honored that I work with such hardworking people who really care about the community," Depew said. "To be selected by my peers is the highest honor." Depew has worked for the department for more than two years and is assigned to Fire Station No. 1.



Kay Johnson has been promoted to finance director, a position that oversees a \$67 million annual budget and a staff of 25. Johnson joined the Town in 1992. She has served as the Town's interim finance

director since December 2003. Previously, she worked in Maryland at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold and at the accounting firm of Alexander and Alexander in Towson. She was an auditor at Touche Ross in Stockholm, Sweden, and at Devitt and Associates in Columbia, Md. She was recognized as the most outstanding student in the municipal adminis-

tration program at the UNC Institute of Government when presented the George C. Franklin Award in 1998.

Ralph Karpinos (Attorney) is serving as the President of the N.C. Association of Municipal Attorneys for 2003-04.

Robert Moore Jr. (Transportation) who is well known among passengers on the U and Express bus routes for sharing friendly messages like his familiar "I am somebody" motto and other messages about hope,



motivation and respect, received the No. 1 in Customer Service Award from Chapel Hill Transit. He was among several Chapel Hill Transit employees recognized for safety, perfect attendance, longevity, customer service and distinguished driving at a May 22 award ceremony. Awards also went to bus driver Decatur Cole for safety, maintenance attendant Paul Dodson for service, and 28 bus drivers for distinguished service. Their good work was recognized earlier that month when Chapel Hill Transit received the 2004 Safety Award from the North Carolina Public Transportation Association (NCPTA).



John Newark

(Public Works) was named the 2004 Employee of the Year for the Public Works Department. He worked for the Town from 1986 to 1992, and returned in 2002.

"I didn't slay a dragon or rescue anyone from a burning building, but I have unclogged a toilet or two," said the building maintenance

supervisor. "What I like about my job is that I get to work with the best people in the world."

Lauren Radson is the new teen and events coordinator at the Parks and Recreation Department. Radson has a bachelor's degree in leisure studies/management from Elon University and has been working with the department since August 2003.

Fred Royal (Engineering) has successfully completed the educational, experience and testing requirements necessary to receive a Professional Engineer's (P.E.) license in North Carolina. The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying requires for P.E. licensure that applicants graduate from an accredited university or college program, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, gain experience working professionally as an engineer, and pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam.

Joyce Smith (Clerk) recently attended the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) 58th Annual Conference, in Whistler, British Columbia. She has served on the institute's membership committee the past two years, the last year as its chair. She was offered the unusual opportunity to speak to 1,800 of her colleagues at the annual business meeting about the work of the Membership Committee and the giant leaps it has taken over the past two years, including creating a database of clerks in each state and country that were members of IIMC (currently 18 countries outside of the United States have IIMC members).

Roger Waldon (Planning) has been inducted as a fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He is one of 46 planners nationally to be selected for the honor. Election to fellow is one of the highest honors that the institute bestows upon a member. It is granted to planners who have been members of the AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership. Waldon has served as planning director since 1984.



Editing and Layout:

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Town of Chapel Hill
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In Detail

News from Town departments

The *Chapel Hill News* awarded 2004 Rose Awards in May to the **Parks and Recreation Department** for the Apple Chill Street Fair (voted Best Event) and the Community Center Park (voted Best Local Park). The award recipients are determined by the newspaper's readers.

In celebration of National Public Works Week, many of the 120 employees from the **Public Works Department** suspended their usual duties on May 21 to participate in a spring cleaning of town facilities. The event featured a lunchtime cookout, health fair, door prizes and award recognition for outstanding job and safety performances. **Maggie Burnett**, Public Works office manager, organized the fair. Public Works employees provide and maintain the infrastructure and services that keep the town running. They work in trucks and on ladders – or behind telephones, shovels, brooms, tree clippers, lawn mowers and jackhammers. Their activities include collecting garbage, paving streets, patching potholes, maintaining traffic lights, installing traffic signs, landscaping, maintaining parks, constructing streets and sidewalks, and maintaining public buildings and town vehicles.

The North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association will partner with the NC Solar Center and the Town of Chapel Hill's Million Solar Roofs Committee to host **Green Building Tours** in Chapel Hill on Saturday, Oct. 2. The homes and buildings will demonstrate readily-available building alternatives which cut down on energy consumption, use environmentally-friendly building materials, landscaping, and water conservation, and in some cases provide self-generated clean, renewable energy.

For more information on the tour, contact Ralph Taylor at ralph.taylor@energy.unc.edu, or 962-7283. For info about other tours and educational events, contact NCSEA at 919/832-7601, ncsea@mindspring.com, or visit on the web at www.ncsustainableenergy.org.



Our Town employees played with heart at the Battle on the Border, a WCHL-sponsored, basketball game between the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro on May 23. Pictured are (front row, l-r) **Chris Ijames, Johnny Jones, Rodney Watson, Felix Dry**, (middle row, l-r) **Terry Battle, Scott Flowers, Jeff Parker, James Butler, Roger Waldon**, (back row, l-r) **Chris Waldon, Rob Pruitt** and **James Wilde**.

Employee Forum



The Employee Forum conducted a random drawing on Aug. 12 to select 10 employees to receive a computer to use at home for one year. A total of 38 employees participated in the lottery. The IT Department provided the recycled computers with clean hard drives and the Windows 2000 operating system. The winners are **Benjamin Farrell** (Police), **Van Bennett** (Police), **Nicole Dube** (Police), **John French** (Police), **Eugene Farrar** (Public Works), **Lisa Parker** (Housing), **Carl Moraven** (Police), **Deborah Yancey** (Transportation), **Paula Gibbs**, and **Elias Lack** (Transportation).

The Employee Forum, an advisory committee to the town manager, consists of supervisory and non-supervisory employees elected by their peers. The group identifies ways that employees can provide input to the Town administration and provides a forum for that communication. To learn more, visit <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org>

Human Resources

About 120 Town employees are on a mission to take 10,000 steps a day. They are participating in "Step It Up!," a walking for wellness program sponsored by the Town and Pfizer Inc., a pharmaceutical company that is working with the Town's health insurance provider, United Health Care. Their shared goal is to improve employee health.

Employees who registered for the program underwent initial health screenings during an Aug. 20 Employee Health Fair at Hargraves Center. They were given free pedometers and asked to record their daily exercise habits. Their goal of 10,000 steps equates roughly to about five miles of walking per day. At the end of the program, they will be screened again to check for improvements.

Employees and retirees not participating in the step program attended the fair to receive free medical screenings and information, as well as door prizes.

The fair was organized by **Camelia Brooks** and **Anissa Graham-Davis** of the Human Resources Department along with members of the Healthy Balance Team. It's not too late to get involved. To learn more, contact Camelia Brooks at 968-2888 ext. 324 or cbbrooks@townofchapelhill.org.



Health provider Heather Krumnacher guides Cary Degraffenreidt (Public Works) on a test of his lung function using a spirometer.

An opportunity to boost pedometer readings is **Car Free Day in Chapel Hill** on Sept. 22. Employees who are able are encouraged to use Chapel Hill Transit and walk or bicycle. Pledge online at www.gocarfree.com to reduce or eliminate auto travel. Everyone who pledges will be entered in a drawing for prizes.

Compliments

Praise
from
Citizens



Mary Brown, who was riding Chapel Hill Transit during a June 29 visit, complimented driver **Latanya Moore** on her safe handling of the bus when lights along her route near the Friday Center were temporarily out of service.

Vicki O'Neal described **Debra Long** of Chapel Hill Transit as "very pleasant and a pleasure" with a "great phone voice and cool phone presence." The customer service exchange occurred on July 14.

Police Officer **Jim Orbich** was thanked on May 11 for "quick and immediate response" in assisting the Orange County Sheriff's Office with the apprehension of a suspect near Mebane. Orbich directed a canine in the search for the suspect. A letter expressing the appreciation was sent by Capt. B.J. Collins, who also thanked Police Chief Greg Jarvies. **Orbich** and Police Officer **Mark Geircken** also were complimented by the house director of Kappa Delta Sorority on June 14 for their fast work in apprehending a suspected burglar.

Greg Ling and employees of the **Streets Division** of Public Works were congratulated on April 1 for repairing a problem on a resident's curb side. "I congratulate Mr. Ling and his team for their technical competence and their customer service-oriented attitude demonstrated on all interactions that I had with them. I am glad that our town has people like Mr. Ling and his team proving service to us!" wrote resident Randall Blanco.

Police Detective **Rodney Newcomer** was thanked for giving a presentation on criminal investigations in law enforcement to the Explorers of the Graham Police Department on April 4 by M.K. Cole of that department.



Coffee Talk:
Who's new,
who's
retiring,
and more

Welcome new employees! (January to August 2004)

Latonia Davis (Police),
Alternative Sentencing Asst.

Gary Bruce (Public Works),
Construction Worker I

Andrew Ennis (Police), Police Officer I

Michael Mineer (Police), Police Officer I

Deborah Timmons (Police), Police Officer I

Marion Wilson (Transportation),
Mechanic Supervisor

Mianna Guldenschuh (Fire),
Firefighter Level I

James Triplett (Transportation),
Service Attendant

Phillip Wilson (Transportation),
Transit Operator

Robert Mallory (Police), Police Officer III

Robert Minick (Public Works),
Landscape Operations Supt.

Catherine Lazorko (Manager),
Town Information Officer

Michael Belvin (Public Works),
Construction Worker II

Stanley Fearington (Public Works),
Construction Worker III

John House (Police), Police Officer I

Rosa Abeldeliz (Police), Police Officer I

Henry Depietro (Transportation),
Transit Operations Manager

Margaret Harden (Library), Library Asst. I

Nana Adjei (Housing),
Maintenance Mechanic I

Robert Reynolds (Police)
Information Tech. Analyst Sr.

Dennis Puckett (Fire), Master Firefighter

Sheleatha Wright Quick (Police),
Forensic & Evidence Specialist

Amy Oland (Finance), Accountant

Our Retirees, with thanks for your service:

Lewis Atwater (Fire):
1/2/75 - 5/1/04

Chesley Austin (Police),
10/1/75 - 5/1/04

Joseph Foushee (Transportation),
5/24/97 - 7/1/04

Sonna Loewenthal (Manager),
6/29/81 - 1/1/04

John D. Parks (Police),
11/1/76 - 7/1/04

Stanley Parrish (Public Works)
10/30/72 - 1/1/04

John Scott (Public Works)
2/1/82 - 1/1/04

Bobby Smith (Police),
10/1/75 - 8/1/04

Our Deadlines

TOWNtalk newsletter deadlines are as follows. Please submit your materials to Catherine Lazorko at clazorko@townofchapelhill.org or by inter-departmental mail to her attention at the Manager's Office. Thanks!

October issue – Sept. 10

November – Oct. 4

December – Nov. 1

January – Dec. 6

February – Jan. 3

March – Feb. 7

April – March 7

May – April 4

June – May 2



Facts,
figures
and trivia

Who Knew?

Let's have a little fun. Can you guess who this Town of Chapel Hill employee is? Help us find a candidate! WANTED: Pictures of Town employees when they were infants or toddlers to be featured in *TOWNtalk*'s Who knew? All submissions will be scanned and returned to their owners.