



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

November 2007
Vol. 4, No. 3

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

HALLOWEEN – You did it again. While others celebrated and had fun, you accomplished a public safety and logistical marvel. CONGRATULATIONS!

I would like to learn the lessons of Halloween to strengthen our organization as the kind of place I want to work. We often say we like what happens at work in events like Halloween or even natural emergencies like storms. What makes that so? I would like to hear what you think. If you have some ideas, email me at rstancil@townofchapelhill.org. Meanwhile, I have a few ideas about what feels good about such efforts:

- For Halloween, we have a clearly stated mission and objectives. We want people to have fun in a safe environment, and we want to return the Town to good order by the next day. All employees know how their part of the work accomplishes the ultimate goal.
- We always review what we did after the event to see how we can do it better next time.
- We tell each other what a great job we did. We celebrate our success as a team.
- People are respected for what they know. For example, a Chapel Hill police officer leads each group of officers from multiple jurisdictions deployed on the street.
- People are given freedom to do their job and the responsibility to make decisions on the street consistent with the general objective and our values.
- The command structure is unified and works together. They support and provide resources for those doing the job. They do not get in their way.

This sounds like a good place to work to me. How do we make that happen more every day?

Tom Hurley photo



Mayor Kevin Foy reported that many citizens commended the Town's handling of Halloween crowds on Franklin Street. "You have done an excellent job and made us all proud."

Brian Parker

Master Firefighter

Department: Fire

Joined Town: February 2005

Duties: Parker is a Master Firefighter at Station 4 on Weaver Dairy Road Ext. He is the senior firefighter on the truck, and serves as relief driver when the driver or officer is out. Parker works on several special projects, including preparing pre-fire plans for large buildings such as apartments, Town facilities, and UNC buildings, to enable quick location of fires. He is also the B-shift representative in charge of training and management for Firehouse Software and has conducted fitness training sessions for the 2007 Fire Academy. His favorite part of the job is his crew.

Parker was selected as Chapel Hill's 2006 Firefighter of the Year for his work with fundraising and with the department. He organized the Poker Run fundraiser for the Chapel Hill Firefighters Association, which raised more than \$1,000. The proceeds were used for a variety of activities, including providing stuffed animals for children in the UNC Burn Center, providing a holiday meal for residents of the Ronald McDonald House, and installing fire sprinklers in homes for Habitat for Humanity. The funds are also used to assist firefighters being treated at the UNC Burn Center and their families.

In the Spotlight



Personal: Parker is engaged to Ashley Coffield, and they are planning to be married on April 19, 2008.

Parker has been a volunteer firefighter for the New Hope Fire Department since 1999, and he continues to work with them 3 to 5 hours each week, including a weekly training session. He also works part-time repairing lab equipment. In his spare time, he enjoys playing softball, motorcycle riding, and hanging out with friends listening to live music at clubs like the Long Branch.

Quote: "The best defense is a good offense."

COMING UP

Friday, Nov. 16: Arbor Day Ceremony, 11 a.m., Chapel Hill Community Center

Thursday-Friday, Nov. 22-23: Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, Nov. 29: Lunch & Learn: "Sugar Buster"

Thursday Dec. 6: Sugar and Spice Employee Appreciation Event, 9-11 a.m., Hargraves Community Center

Friday, Dec. 7: Longevity Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Town Hall

Friday, Dec. 21: Service Awards Reception

In Brief

Ed Brooks (Police) will be inducted into the NC Weightlifting Hall of Fame on Saturday, Nov. 10 at Southern Vance High School in Henderson, NC. From 1992 until his retirement from the sport in 2000, Brooks held the World Super Heavy Weight Title in bench press and power lifting. He also captured the International Super Heavy Weight Title in Madrid, Spain while traveling with the USA Power Lifting Team.

Mike Taylor (Engineering) and **Phil Mason** (Planning) gave a walking tour on Traditional Neighborhood Development in Southern Village and Meadowmont on Sept. 26, during the NC American Planning Association Annual Conference in held in Chapel Hill.



Amy Harvey (Communications & Public Affairs) received a Certified Municipal Clerk Certification on October 18 from the UNC School of Government. The

CMC Certification is a 120 hour course study in State Statutes, Planning and Regional Development, Personnel Management, Fiscal Policies, and Records Management. Amy is a member of the N.C. Municipal Clerk's Association and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

The Chapel Hill Police Department, along with Orange County law enforcement agencies, is working to set up a demonstration site for High-Visibility Law Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws. This project is funded by a \$100,000 grant from the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration to the Coalition for Alcohol & Drug Free Teenagers of Chapel Hill & Carrboro, Inc.



TOWNtalk is produced by the Communications and Public Affairs Department
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Web Stewards Unite! – The Town's new Web Stewards Team to be led by **Amy Harvey** (Communications and Public Affairs) met for its inaugural meeting on Oct. 24. Web Stewards have the important job of ensuring that their department's web pages are useful, accurate and timely. The Chapel Hill web site is a fundamental communication tool for providing critical and informative Town information and interactive services to its citizens and the world. The goal of the Town website is to encourage user participation in Town government, to enable electronic service delivery to the public, and to help create a better Chapel Hill.

Open enrollment for Flexible Spending Accounts, now administered by Wells Fargo Third Party Administrators, will be held Tuesday, Nov. 27, through Friday, Dec. 14 for the 2008 plan year. The deadline for submitting the completed Flexible Spending Account Election Form and Salary Reduction Agreement will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14. A representative will be on site to give presentations on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at the following times:

- 7 - 8 a.m.: Public Works Streets/ Construction Crew Area Bldg 2
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.: Chapel Hill Public Library Conference Room
- 10 – 11 a.m.: Transportation Employee Lounge
- 11:15 a.m. – noon: Town Hall Council Chamber
- 1 – 2 p.m.: Fire Department Station #1-EOC Conference Room
- 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.: Public Works (Administration Conference Room Bldg 1)
- 4 – 5 p.m.: Parks & Recreation Conference Room
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.: Police Department 2nd Floor Training Room

The **mbi Flex Convenience MasterCard** allows participants to immediately access funds in their Flexible Spending Account. The card may be used at eligible merchants to pay for eligible expenses under your FSA. The mbi Flex Convenient MasterCard works like a credit card, so you don't have to file claims.

The Transit Wellness Center, featuring exercise equipment and fitness space, is now available to all Town employees after 3 p.m. on weekdays and anytime on Saturday. In order to use the Wellness Center, you will need to attend an orientation and then sign a waiver. If you are interested in using the Wellness Center, please call Lisa Isley at 968-2700.



Toni Pendergraph (Attorney's Office), right, was one of numerous Town employees who volunteered at Project Homeless Connect on Oct. 25 at the Hargraves Community Center. The event, organized by **Jamie Rohe** (Planning), was a tremendous effort, serving about 130 guests. There were 150 volunteers who worked the event. The event is designed to link homeless people with a broad range of needed services such as housing, employment and health care. Unlike an information fair, Project Homeless Connect directly engages homeless people with services.

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Please recycle with white paper.



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Compliments



Tim Auble (Transit) received four compliments from citizens in October for his “personable, friendly, and accommodating service.”

Paul Azzu (Transit) was complimented by Lorraine Aragon and Asha Lakkavaram for his friendliness, safe driving, helpfulness to passengers and for his calm and professional handling of an agitated passenger.

Tiffanie Brown (Transit) received thanks from Jeanette Ellis for her courtesy and professional manner in dealing with a crowded bus.

Nancy Hayes (Transit) was complimented by Ina Kimbrough for her professionalism, careful driving, and helpfulness. “She represents the town of Chapel Hill well.”

Del Snow wrote to thank **Lee Thompson** (Public Works), supervised by **Tim Smith** (Public Works) for a timely resolution to a sight distance obstruction at the intersection of Weaver Dairy Road Ext. and Lonebrook Drive.

Recycling



The County Solid Waste Management Administrative Office is moving from its current location on University owned land on Municipal Drive off 1099 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Beginning Nov. 5, the Solid Waste Management Office will be located temporarily at The Courtyard at Cedar Falls at 630 Weaver Dairy Road, just east of Sunrise Road, in the shopping center where Bagels on the Hill and The Barbeque Joint are located. The office entrance is on the east (right) side of the building.

Come there for curbside recycling bins, licenses to haul solid waste in Orange County and to meet with Solid Waste officials. We will occupy this space for about a year while our new Operations Center is being constructed next to the landfill on Eubanks Road. The public information phone number will remain the same (968-2788) as will all County Solid Waste employee email addresses.

— Blair Pollock (Orange Community Recycling)



Monster Bash – Finance employees showed their fun side on Halloween! Pictured l-r are **Kristi McClellan** (pirate), **Jeanne Tate** (flower child), **Amy Oland** (Renaissance princess), **Vanessa Weymouth Tart** (witch), **Ross Tompkins** (Elvis), **Megan Hall** (gladiator), and **Loris Colclough** (Phantom of the Opera) with **Scott Beavers** (sailor) at the masthead.

New Employees (July 2 – Oct. 23)

Carlo Robustelli (Mayor) – Mayor Aide
Curt Farrell (Police) – Police Officer
Kerry Bigelow (Public Works) – Sanitation Collector
John “Matt” Lawrence (Fire) – Deputy Chief/ Fire Marshal
Stephanie Lunsford (Transit) – Transit Operator
Christopher McClay (Parking) – Assistant Parking Services Superintendent
Joshua Counts (Transit) – Parts Clerk
Kimberly Weaver (Transit) – Administrative Assistant
Andrew Riel (Engineering) – Traffic Signal Technician
Debra Lane (Engineering) – Administrative Technician
Ross Tompkins (Finance) – Accounting & Systems Administrator
Valerie Meicher (Human Resource Development) – Human Resource Development Director
Rezell Alston (Public Works) – Construction Worker
Steven Groce (Public Works) – Construction Worker
Michael Payne (Public Works) – Groundskeeper

Ronald Powers (Transit) – Mechanic
Thomas Barrow (Public Works) – Groundskeeper
Jeremy Larusso (Public Works) – Mechanic
Scott Kelly (Transit) – Transit Operator
David Almond (Engineering) – Engineering Technician
Kendal Brown (Planning) – Planner
John Richardson (Planning) – Planner
James Nuneviller (Public Works) – Construction Worker
Jayne Coats (Parks & Recreation) – Recreation Assistant
Todd Clark (Public Works) – Construction Worker
Peter Holz (Public Works) – Assistant Arborist
Catherine Viscusi (Communications & Public Affairs) – Administrative Clerk
Lisa Isley (Human Resources Development) – Secretary/Receptionist
Bradley Pearci (Transit) – Mechanic

Retiring Employees

James Bartley (Transit)
 Effective Oct. 1
Lee Wilson (Transit)
 Effective Oct. 1



Employee Forum

Employee Forum Election Process

We are halfway thorough the election process for the Employee Forum. Human Resource Development has distributed ballots for all viable nominees. Please return the ballots to

them by Nov. 12. The election process should be complete by the end of November. If you have any questions, contact your department’s representative or Wendy Walsh at 969-5032.

Town Reorganization

At our September meeting, Roger Stancil discussed with us the realignment or reorganization of the Town departments and how this reflects the high priorities of the Town Council. A frequently asked questions document and a diagram of the process are available from your Senior Management Team member (Department Head) and/or your Forum representative. See also the article “A Short Report” in the September *TOWNtalk*.

CHANGE Counts and Helps Charities

Thanks for your support of the Combined Campaign

Many employees came out to support the Townwide Kick-off for the "Change Counts" Combined Campaign on Oct. 12 and the Public Works Kickoff on Oct. 26. Chapel Hill Transit is planning a fundraiser lunch "after party" on Nov. 9. Thanks to Kurt Neufang for leading this effort.

Each year employees are given the option of using convenient payroll deduction to support various umbrella "federations" for smaller charitable agencies. The federations that benefited from your efforts and generosity this year are: Triangle United Way, NC Community Shares, Earth Share of North Carolina, and Community Health Charities of North Carolina.

While the complete tally of Town fundraising was not ready by newsletter press time, we can report that the Townwide kick-off and subsequent games raised more than \$600. Public Works employees raised a whopping \$1,189 at their kickoff lunch (thanks to Kay McDaniel for organizing this!).

And as predicted, "change really does COUNT!" The change collected in milk bottles by departments across the Town netted more than \$250. The winning depart-

ment — Inspections at \$64 — is most notable because it also one of the smallest in numbers of employees.



Arek Kempinski (IT) and Sabrina Farrar (Housing) stop by for hot dogs and nachos, served up by Jayne Coats (Parks and Recreation).

Kickoff Door Prizes:

Grand Door Prize: **Carmen Cole** won the Chapel Hill Tire \$35 Gift Certificate

Kickoff Game Prize Winners:

Otto's Pick and Putt... **David LaTowsky**, with a score of 44 points, won the \$25 Carolina Brewery Gift Certificate.

Darts... **Mark Bayles**, with a score of 86, won the UNC Football Snack Tray Table (donated by Carolina Pride Sportswear).

Darts for Dollars... **Bob Avery**, with a score of 50, won the \$25 Olive Garden Gift Card (donated by Sabrina Oliver).

Operation Kick Off... **Chelsea Laws**, with a score of 240 (she got them all with time to spare), won the Shrunken Head Boutique \$15 Certificate.

Kickoff Raffle Winners:

UNC Hat: **George Small**
UNC Hat (donated by Carolina Pride Sportswear): **Ralph Karpinos**
UNC Jersey (donated by Carolina Pride Sportswear): **Chelsea Laws**



Len Cone (Planning) offers her famous chili.

Simmer Pot (donated by Valarie Miecher): **Coco Hall**

Fall Wreath (donated by Flora Parrish):

Susan Holt

Winter Wreath (donated by Flora Parrish):

Myra Evans

Goblets (donated by Coco Hall): **Wendy Smith**
Crochet Scarf (donated by Jeannette Taylor):

Sandy Kline

AquaScape (donated by Coco Hall): **Sandy Kline**
\$50 Gift Certificate (donated by Caffe Driade):

Mary Powell

Neck Pillow (donated by Cameron's): **Flora**

Parrish

Spot Cop (donated by Coco Hall):

Brenda Jones

Green Marble Candle (donated by Catherine Lazorko): **Tanita**

Howard

Fine Art Photograph (donated by Vincent Taylor): **Kay McDaniel**

Winners of Continuing Games:

Otto's Pick and Putt... **Carol Abernethy** and **Ernie Rogers** tied with 42 points.

Operation Kickoff... **Amy Harvey**, with a score of 255 (she came, she played, she got 'em all!), won the neck pillow (donated by Cameron's).

Darts for Dollars... **Matt Rowles**, with a score of 51 points, won the \$20 gift certificate from Chapel Hill Sportswear

Darts... **Mark Bayles** scored 47 points to win the \$15 gift certificate to Market Street Books.



Sandy Kline (Communications and Public Affairs) dances the shag with retired firefighter Claude Neville.