



# TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

October 2007  
Vol. 4, No. 2

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

## A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,  
Town Manager

Pay increases take effect this month, marking acknowledgement of the excellent services provided by our employees.

I am pleased that the Council authorized an average 4 percent pay increase last June even as it strived to create a budget that does not raise taxes for property owners. This year's budget sets aside more than \$1 million in additional funds to cover the increase. The Town budget expresses community values. It is apparent that the Council and the community value the competent and productive work force of the Town of Chapel Hill.

This year's budget included additional outreach to employees through the allocation of funds for employee training. I believe that new learning opportunities through seminars and training will provide employees with the tools and competencies necessary to face new challenges and further our organization's mission.

Another change that employees see in their paychecks this year is new rates for health and dental insurance. While the Town continues to provide exceptional benefits for its employees, an economic reality across the country is that insurance rates are rising.

Contact the Human Resource Development Department if you have questions related to your paycheck or employee benefits: 968-2700.

## Flu Shots Available

Flu shot clinics are scheduled from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 22, at the Town Hall Employee Lounge and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, at the Chapel Hill Transit Employee Lounge. Please call 968-2700 for an appointment.

## Yes, Change Counts!

Catherine Lazorko photo



The Town's Combined Campaign employee organizing group has been hard at work, preparing milk jugs for the "Change Counts" campaign. Town employees are invited to participate in a bit of friendly competition between departments to see which department collects the most change for worthy causes. Toss a few coins in the bottle!

The Combined Campaign Kick Off lunch and games event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12.

The Town will continue its automatic payroll deduction option, and pledge cards will be distributed to employees after the kick off event. Please return the cards to your departmental representative by Nov. 1.

The campaign supports the following: Community Health Charities, Earth Share of North Carolina, North Carolina Community Shares, and Triangle United Way - Orange County.

Many thanks to the Combined Campaign representatives who help organize the kickoff event and the campaign. Pictured above in their milk mustaches (l-r back row): Maggie Bowers, Jeannette Taylor, Len Cone and Amy Oland; (l-r, bottom row): Sandy Kline, Kay McDaniel, Flora Parrish and Lisa Baaske. Representatives not pictured here include Mark Bayles, Kurt Neufang and Catherine Lazorko.

## COMING UP

**Friday, Oct. 12:** Townwide  
Combined Campaign Kick-off

**Wednesday, Oct. 17:** Scam Jam,  
Chapel Hill Bible Church, 220 Erwin Road  
Pre-registration required: 932-2929

**Friday, Oct. 19:** Employee Service Awards,  
Town Hall

**Thursday, Oct. 25:** Lunch & Learn:  
Maximizing Your Health Insurance:  
968-2700

**Friday, Oct. 26:** Public Works  
Combined Campaign Kick-off

**Tuesday, Nov. 6:** Election Day



Catherine Lazorko photo

**Halloween** — The annual gathering of about 70,000 Halloween revelers on Franklin Street requires a massive cooperative effort of public safety (more than 400 officers), transit, parking and public works. Thanks in advance to all who help keep the community safe through the night and cleaned up in the morning!

# In Brief



**Brian Curran** was appointed as the new chief of police by Town Manager Roger L. Stancil, who announced his decision on Sept. 24. A 21-year veteran of the Chapel Hill Police Department, Curran has served as interim police chief since Gregg Jarvies retired in April.

A native of Hornell, N.Y., Curran served in the U.S. Navy for five years before coming to Chapel Hill. He was awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal for service related to a hostage rescue attempt in Iran in 1980. At Chapel Hill, he has held positions of public safety officer, juvenile officer, patrol sergeant, detective, narcotics squad leader, and Northside neighborhood squad leader.

Curran has a bachelor's degree in history from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. He earned an Administrative Officers Management Program Certificate from NC State University in July 2004.

**John Newark** (Public Works) has been appointed Interim Sustainability and Facilities Management Superintendent. Newark has a long and successful record in Chapel Hill as a technical facilities manager and a leader of an effective maintenance team. Newark served as the Building Program Supervisor from September 1986 to April 1992 and since June 2002, and he was a key figure on the construction management team for the new Town Operations Center.



*TOWNtalk* is produced by the Communications and Public Affairs Department  
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**“Crossing Carolina” Fitness Challenge** — Dozens of employees walked to Hargraves Center on Sept. 27 to get involved in a new employee walking and fitness program. Employees who walk about three miles a day from Oct. 1 through Dec. 21 will have walked a total of 425 miles. Prizes are themed on cities across North Carolina (Manteo, Rocky Mount, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Winston Salem, Hickory, and Asheville). Prizes may include tickets to a historical site or theatrical performance, hotel stays and restaurant dinners.

**Charles Pardo** (Police) received the El Centro Latino Award for outstanding service and support of the Latino community. Officer Pardo coordinates Latino outreach initiatives for the Chapel Hill Police Department and is currently assigned to the Community Services Division. El Centro Latino is a non-profit organization that provides social services, educational and cultural programs to the Orange County's Latino community.

Well done to **Chase Barnard** (IT) for accomplishing one of the Town technology goals – to provide an online database for GIS data.

The Planning Department has been chosen for the initial testing of the portal, but all Town employees will be able to access the database. GIS data is being stored in the Town's new corporate GIS database, which is now online as well. Users will be able to visualize and query layers including, streets, parcels, hydrology, floodplains, OWASA infrastructure, zoning and various sets of aerial imagery. Users can search by street address or PIN# and print maps.

To access the GIS portal, visit [gisweb/staff/default.aspx](http://gisweb/staff/default.aspx)

The Town is hosting the first annual **Project Homeless Connect Orange County** to serve people experiencing homelessness. The event is part of the County-wide effort to end chronic homelessness and will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 25 at Hargraves Community Center. Town employees are invited to

volunteer up to 2 ½ hours of their work day at the event (please check with your supervisor to get their OK).

Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop center designed to link homeless people with a broad range of services.

The Town's partners in the event include the other local governments of Orange County, a broad array of non-profit agencies, local businesses, UNC-CH, faith-based communities, and others. We anticipate serving over 150 homeless people at the Orange County event, with the help of hundreds of volunteers.

Volunteers are crucial to the program's success in serving the homeless! Volunteers are needed to escort homeless guests through the event, serve as greeters, do intake and exit interviews, serve as parking attendants, direct foot traffic, and to set-up before and clean-up after the event.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the event, please contact Jamie Rohe, Planning Department, 969-5059, [jrohe@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:jrohe@townofchapelhill.org)

**Walk for the Gold** with the Chapel Hill Police Department Saturday, Oct. 27. This 5K fundraiser for Special Olympics North Carolina requires a \$25 minimum per person. Register from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Chapel Hill Community Center, 120 Estes Drive. Strollers, walkers, and leashed pets are welcome. Information: 968-2760.

*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:  
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# Compliments



**Paul Azzu** (Transit) was commended by Sherryl Y. Yu for his effort, dedication, and friendly greetings for each passenger.

**Jessie Cameron** (Transit) received thanks from Jenny (no last name given) for good customer service, for taking time to explain bus routes.

**Valjean Gibson** (Transit) received compliments from NU rider Helen Nulty for his “wonderful customer service skills.”

**Carl Hicks** (Transit) was commended by Amy Ryan for his courtesy and safe driving. Ryan said, “He is one of your best drivers.”

**Tim Auble** (Transit) was complimented by Brenda King for his patience with an aggressive passenger. “. . .he is one of the nicest drivers we have had in a long time. . .”

**Vanessa Johnson** (Transit) was thanked by Tavern Brown for keeping the F bus on time.

**Anthony Leach** (Transit) was thanked by an elderly citizen for his assistance in locating her car in the parking lot at Walmart.

**Peter Orr** and **Tim Auble** (Transit) were commended by Tiffany Price for their friendliness, courtesy to passengers and focus on safety. “. . .these two drivers are just outstanding!”

**Kay Pearlstein** (Planning) was praised by Charles P. Brown for being polite, professional and helpful. “. . .she is certainly an asset as well as a valuable employee. . .”

Miranda Boykin expressed her appreciation for **Raymond Weston** (Transit) on the JFX Route.

A resident of Davie Lane complimented the **Fire Department** for being friendly, helpful, courteous and compassionate in dealing with a residence fire on Davie Lane.

Ed Kerwin of OWASA wrote to commend Town staff, including **Jerry Battle** (Engineering) and **Mike Rempson** (Engineering) for their assistance with the quick installation of water conservation signs and a banner in Chapel Hill.

# Town Hall to Become Blue Bike Hub

Many Town employees soon will have easy access to loaner bicycles to use as an alternative to getting around town for meetings, lunch or errands.

The community bicycle loan program named “Blue Urban Bikes” will serve a bicycle hub at Town Hall. Employees will have free access to the bicycles by the end of October. The program works like a lending library for bikes. Users check out a bicycle from an attendant at various hubs located throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Employee access will be limited to bicycles stationed at Town Hall, where Scott Beavers (Finance) has kindly agreed to help sign out bikes.

The program is designed to provide a reliable source of clean and affordable sustainable transportation, as well as offer a healthy travel alternative and allow everyone to take an active role in lessening the environmental footprint of our community.



# Festifall Fun on Franklin

Congratulations to the Parks and Recreation Department for successfully hosting the Town’s 35th Annual Festifall Arts & Crafts Street Fair held on Oct. 7. About 10,000 people came out for live music on four separate stages; arts and crafts; food vendors from a variety of cuisines, and children’s activities and entertainment.

The crowds enjoyed a new design, featuring craft vendor booths in the center of the street. The design allowed event-goers to stroll the streets with fair vendors on one side and the business merchants on the other.



Catherine Lazorko photos



# "How I Spent My Summer Vacation"

During the summer, Town employees enjoyed vacations all over the world, from the East Coast to the Caribbean. Thank you for sharing your stories and photos!

**Nathan Chambers** (Police) and his daughter Chai spent a week at Massanutten Resort in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, with visits to Natural Bridge and Luray Caverns.

**Will Quick** (Police) and **Sheleathea Wright-Quick** (Police) enjoyed balmy weather, blue skies, and clear water on a week-long cruise through Nassau, St. Thomas and St. Maarten. They enjoyed St. Maarten so much, they hope to take another vacation there soon.

**Wendy Smith** (Stormwater Management), husband Tim and son Alex took their dream vacation to Glacier National Park in Montana, traveled north to Alberta on one of the world's most spectacular mountain highways and returned through British Columbia. They saw spectacular wildlife, from grizzly bears to mountain goats.

Wendy says: "The history of the area, the immensity of the mountains, the sounds of rushing waters, the geology and beauty of carved rock, the coolness were phenomenal. We inhaled as much of the cold air as we could to hold in reserve during the North Carolina summers!"

**Chris Bradley** (Fire) spent a good part of the summer working on a new permanent exhibit at the Chapel Hill Museum, "Heroes of Yesterday, Heroes of Today – The History of the Chapel Hill Fire Department." This multi-media display includes a documentary video of interviews with retired firefighters, a timeline of the town's major fires and departmental milestones, and many historical artifacts. The centerpiece of the installation is Chapel Hill's first motorized 1914 Ford fire truck. Bradley designed and curated the exhibit with Chapel Hill Museum Director Traci Davenport.



Nathan Chambers' daughter Chai at Natural Bridge in Virginia



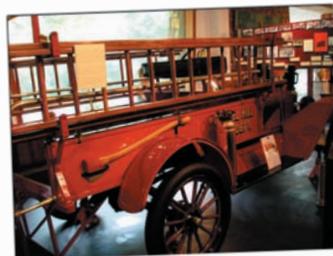
Sheleathea Wright-Quick soaks up the sun on a Caribbean beach



Will Quick relaxes in St. Maarten



Wendy Smith and her family visited Hector Lake, located north of Lake Louise on the Icefields Parkway.



Chapel Hill's first motorized fire truck from 1914



Chris Bradley at the opening reception for "Heroes of Yesterday, Heroes of Today"