



# TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

June 2007  
Vol. 3, No. 10

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

## A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,  
Town Manager

Memorial Day can come and go with little thought to its purpose. It is a welcome day off for Town employees. It is the signal that summer is near. It is a time to enjoy friends and family.

But Memorial Day is a special day dedicated to the memory of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. In today's world, it is especially important that we stop and remember.

War touches all of us. We have relatives who lost their lives or who are forever changed by the emotional and physical toll of war for those who return. We know families torn apart by the strains of absence. All around us are veterans whose service we soon forget.

Although Memorial Day has now passed, take a moment to think about the families and individuals who bear the price of war. Say thank you to someone who served. Pause to remember, and honor.

## Enjoy Your Summer!

TOWNtalk is on a break for the summer, and will resume in September. Please continue to send your news and photos to [tio@townofchapelhill](mailto:tio@townofchapelhill).



## Lafayette Poteat

**Transit Operator**

**Department:** Transportation

**Joined Town:** August 1987

**Duties:** Lafayette is a bus driver on the J route. His priorities in operating a bus are being safe, reliable, aware of his surroundings and sociable. He says that driving a bus is challenging — a driver has to stay alert and expect the unexpected, like people crossing the street right in front of his vehicle. It takes energy to stay sharply focused for a whole shift. Operating a big vehicle is exciting, and it's satisfying to be able to use the right techniques to get the bus through tight spaces.

Lafayette is now training to be a fill-in supervisor, so he is learning the other side of operations behind the scenes, including where more buses are needed, working with a timetable, and filling customer needs. Another challenge is learning the computer system.

Lafayette compares being a bus driver to being a bartender — sometimes you ask how people are doing, and they'll end up telling you their life story. He has learned a lot about life from listening to his passengers. Chapel Hill is an international town, and he enjoys learning about the lifestyles of students, visitors, and people who have moved here from other countries.

**Personal:** When he's not driving a bus, he enjoys riding around in his Corvette. He likes the simple things in life, and he enjoys outdoor activities, including live music, stage plays, and eating ice cream in the shade.

## In the Spotlight



Melanie Miller photo

He likes eating at restaurants, and enjoys trying new places. He travels occasionally, and some of his favorite places are Texas, Florida, and the mountains. His daughter Tiffany, 25, lives in Chapel Hill and is studying to be a massage therapist.

He has been a drummer for about 25 years, and has played a variety of music, including reggae, rock and funk. He toured with traveling bands, and he now plays gospel music with the Union Grove Male Chorus, Mass Choir, and Youth Choir. He rehearses up to four days a week, two weeks every month, and gives about 30 to 35 performances every year.

**Quote:** "It's a lot easier to be nice to people than be mean."

## COMING UP

**June 15:** Employee Appreciation Luncheon

**June 17:** Father's Day

**June 22:** Step 4 Your Health! Celebration, 10 a.m., Council Chambers

**June 27:** Council consideration of budget adoption

**June 28:** Lunch & Learn, "Cancer Prevention"

**June 30:** Night Out with the Durham Bulls

**July 4:** Independence Day Celebration, Kenan Stadium



Bring the family for an evening of fun at Summer Concerts in the Parks. The Catalinas kick off the series at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, June 17, with a special tribute to fathers on Father's Day. Information: 968-2784

# In Brief



**Ray "Butch" Kisiah Jr.**, has been selected as the new parks and recreation director. Kisiah was scheduled to start on June 4. Kisiah holds a bachelor's degree

in recreation administration from Appalachian State University and is a 30-year veteran of the parks and recreation business. His previous position was as recreation superintendent for the City of Asheville.



**Susanna Williams** (Fire) and **Clint** (Police) are proud parents of new baby boy, Charles Lawrence, shown above with big brother Caleb, 3. He arrived at 9:50 a.m. Wednesday, May 23, and weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz.

**Saleisha Williams** will be working as the Mayor's Assistant until later in the summer, when she returns to her second year of law school at North Carolina Central University.

## New Employees

**Dwight Bassett** (Manager),  
Economic Development Coordinator

**Susan Zellers** (Library), Library Assistant III



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*At the Fire Department Retiree Luncheon on April 23, retirees identified photos and talked about the history of the Fire Department. The Chapel Hill Museum is assisting the department in videotaping oral histories of the retirees, which will be used to develop a Fire Department exhibit at the museum.*

The **Step 4 Your Health!** celebration will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., Friday, June 22, in the Council Chambers. The Human Resources Department also will kick off our summer Step 4 Your Health challenge, "Crossing Carolina."

A Lunch & Learn program on cancer prevention will be held from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, June 28. Please RVSP to 968-2700.

**Employees are invited** to take advantage of sporting event tickets through the Parks and Recreation Department. Bring your friends and family, and enjoy the following events:

- Night Out with the Durham Bulls, 7 p.m., Saturday, June 30.
- First Annual Golf Tournament, 8 a.m., Saturday, July 21, at Southwick Golf Course, Graham, NC
- Nascar Nextel Cup Series Outing, 1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 21, at Martinsville Speedway

Tickets are available through the Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Office.  
Information: 968-2787 ext. 211

June is **Homeownership Month**. Learn about affordable homeownership programs in Orange County. Contact Crystal Fisher at 967-1545 ext. 301 or [cfisher@ochlt.org](mailto:cfisher@ochlt.org)

The **Town Summer Concerts in the Parks** will feature a variety of entertainment for the entire family. Come out and enjoy an evening of family fun and entertainment.

- The Catalinas (Beach Music) 6 p.m., Sunday, June 17, at Cedar Falls Park.
- Stanley Baird, Jazz, 6 p.m., Sunday, July 15, at Homestead Park.
- Sweet Dreams (R&B), 6 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 11, at Hargraves Center Park.

Information: 968-2784.

Bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets. Please, no animals, alcohol or glass containers.



**Terrie Gale** (Police) won the flower bouquet at the biannual service award ceremony led last month by Town Manager Roger Stancil. Gale was honored for 15 years of service to the Town.

*TOWNtalk*, a publication for and about Town of Chapel Hill employees, is issued monthly September through June. It is copied in the Town Clerk's Office on recycled paper. Please recycle with white paper.



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## Employee Forum

The Employee Forum is an advisory committee to the Town Manager consisting of supervisory and non-supervisory employees who are elected by their peers. This group will:

- Identify ways to recognize the individual worth and uniqueness of each employee;
- Identify ways for the Town to value diversity;
- Identify ways for all employees to provide input to the Town administration and provide a venue for that communication;
- Encourage a sense of community among all Town employees; and
- Assist in the communication of issues and activities affecting employees.

We have recently been presented with information on accident reporting and workers compensation, represented employees during the 2007-08 budget process, and dispersed another round of computers for the Town-employee loan program. During the summer we plan to focus on the socially responsible investing proposal, Transit safety issues, and the potential for a multi-cultural program proposal.

The Forum meets on the second Thursday of the month. If you have issues, concerns or questions that you would like addressed during these meetings, please bring them to your representative. We need your support.

## Recycling

As more compact fluorescent lights come into use to cut energy consumption, more will burn out. They should not be disposed in the trash because they contain mercury. They should instead be recycled with hazardous household waste at the Orange County landfill 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 7:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Each county has its own hours and arrangements for household hazardous waste management. Residents of Wake, Durham and Chatham may use Orange County's facility.

— Blair Pollock (Orange Community Recycling)

## Thanks! (with sprinkles on top)

Town employees enjoyed ice cream with their favorite toppings at the "Scoop It Day" Employee Appreciation Event.

### Prize Winners

\$25 Gift Card to Maggiano's: **Michael Gary** (Public Works)

\$25 Gift Card to Kelsey's at Oconeechee: **Jackie Fuller** (Parks & Recreation)

\$25 Gift Card to Aveda Institute: **Donald Hayes** (Public Works)

One Night Stay at Residence Inn by Marriott:

**Johnny Pompey** (Parks and Recreation)

Thank You to the "Super Scoopers"

who helped serve: **Kay Johnson** (Finance),

**Bruce Heflin** (Manager's Office), **Lance Norris** (Inspections), **Bill Letteri** (Public Works), **Ralph Karpinos** (Attorney), **George Small** (Engineering), **Cebrettia Hinton** (Transportation), **Dave LaTowsky** (Stormwater Management), **Jason Greene** (Parks and Recreation), **Bernard Leach** (Parks and Recreation), **Robb English** (Parks and Recreation), **Linda Burnette** (Parks and Recreation), **Sonya Reddick-Shaw** (Parks and Recreation) and **Camelia Brooks** (Human Resources).

A special thank you to **George Small** for handling the door prize drawings.

Mark your calendars for the next employee appreciation event, the Employee Appreciation Luncheon, which will be held on Friday, June 15 at Chapel Hill High School.



Catherine Lazorko photo

## Compliments



Laurie Paolicelli expressed her thanks to the **Transportation Department** for efficiently transporting 500 athletic visitors. "All went beautifully smooth. Your team is the best team at Chapel Hill, and I swear I don't say that to all the teams."

Gary S. Bridges wrote to thank the **Transportation Department** for providing quick and

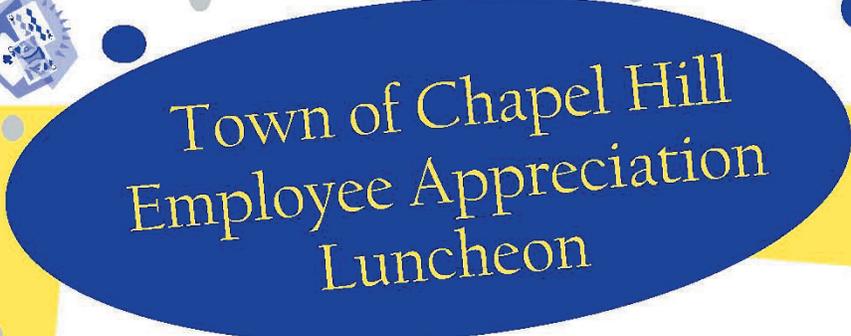
convenient graduation shuttle service. "Congratulations on a very well organized parking and shuttle plan. The people were friendly, and there was good communication... Thank you for making this event that much more special."

Sandra Forester, reporter from *The Idaho Statesman*, complimented **Bill Rehm** (IT) on a well-organized, informative website that conveys a good image of Chapel Hill.

## Town Begins Construction of New Southern Park



A groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 4 for the Southern Community Park located south of Southern Village. This will become the 11th and largest park in Chapel Hill, covering 72 acres with more half the land remaining in a natural state. The \$4.7 million project will feature athletic/soccer fields, basketball courts, an inline hockey court, a dog park, trails, a play area, and a disk golf course.



# Town of Chapel Hill Employee Appreciation Luncheon



BASKETBALL

MUSIC

Friday, June 15, 2007

11:00am-2:00pm

Chapel Hill High School

GREAT  
DOOR  
PRIZES

GAMES



## ENJOY THE LUNCHEON

with a catered meal, free play basketball, games, door prizes and employee of the year awards. Local colleges and universities will participate and provide information on evening and weekend programs. Not only will the food be great and cater to “meat eaters” and “vegetarians” alike, but door prizes include gift certificates from restaurants, eateries, gift and flower shops, hotels, barber shops and more.

### MENU

BBQ, Fried and Grilled Chicken, Vegetarian Wraps, Coleslaw, Baked Beans,  
Hushpuppies, Tea/Lemonade, Cobbler, Banana Pudding

catered by Hursey's Bar-B-Q

### TAKE OUT LUNCHESES OR VEGETARIAN MEALS:

IF YOUR DEPT IS REQUESTING TAKE OUT LUNCHESES OR  
VEGETARIAN ONLY MEALS, ONE PERSON PER DEPARTMENT IS

ASKED TO CONTACT PARKS AND REC (968-2787 EXT. 211)

OR SEND YOUR DEPT. REQUEST VIA EMAIL TO

JPOMPEY@TOWNOFCHAPELHILL.ORG BY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

WITH A FINAL COUNT. ALL TAKEOUTS MUST BE PICKED UP

BETWEEN 11:00 AND 11:30AM ON THE DAY OF THE LUNCHEON.