



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

March 2007
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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

Do you know your BMI? How about your personal HDL or LDL?

If it sounds like Greek, you're not alone. I'm learning more about these measures of wellness since I signed up for "Step 4 Your Health!" All employees are encouraged to participate in the employee benefit program organized by the Human Resources Department with support from Go! Chapel Hill Active Living.

Participants are encouraged to exercise, lose weight, quit smoking, reduce stress, and get regular medical checkups. Programs are offered, including smoking cessation (March 29), allergies (April 26), healthy cooking (May 31), and cancer prevention (June 28).

BMI stands for Body Mass Index. It's a new way of determining whether your weight is within the healthy range. The HDL and LDL are two different kinds of cholesterol that are measured as an index of your risk for cardiovascular disease. HDL stands for high-density lipoprotein and LDL stands for low-density lipoprotein. The point is that cholesterol can be both good and bad, so it's important to learn what cholesterol is, how it affects your health and how to manage your blood cholesterol levels.

I encourage you to learn more. While your primary motivation will be to feel better, there are additional cash incentives. These awards are provided on a point system. You earn points and become eligible for reimbursements by taking positive steps such as enrolling at a gym, joining Weight Watchers or quitting smoking.

I believe that a healthier lifestyle leads to reduced health costs, higher self esteem, and greater productivity. Gather a few coworkers and head out for a lunchtime walk! You'll feel better, work smarter, and you might just live longer.

Editor's Note: See Page 4 for more information.

Larry Stroud

Solid Waste Services Supervisor

Joined Town: 1975

Duties: Larry manages the employees who comb the early morning streets of Chapel Hill every Monday and Tuesday morning to collect garbage from residences. On Thursday and Friday, they're back out to pick up yard waste. These 32 solid waste employees are part of the Public Works team that provides and maintains the infrastructure and services that keep the town running. Larry also manages daily requests from residents and assures that collections are performed effectively and on schedule.

Personal: His previous employment was as a staff sergeant for the U.S. Air Force. Larry began working for the Town at the urging of his two older brothers, who worked as collectors. Larry is the only one who stayed for the long haul, 30 years - first as a collector, then as driver, and now as supervisor. He speaks fondly of his first supervisor, Lee Burgess, who he says showed fairness and humor.

Trash collection is hard work, but it was more difficult in those early days when trash was put out in orange barrels that had to be hoisted onto your back and carried from back yards and alleyways. Hundreds of times over. Says Larry: "It was rough. The cans were heavy. You had to watch out for dogs and snakes."

What appealed to him about the job was its early start and finish; and being outside and

In the Spotlight



Catherine Lazorko photo

physically active. A self-described "outdoors person," Larry spends his free time hunting, fishing, camping or working on cars, especially his Chevrolet S10, a pickup truck he reserves mostly for car shows.

Larry and his wife, Alice, live in Chatham County. They have two grown children, Pamela and Crandel, and seven grandchildren.

Quote: "Sometimes people take kindness for weakness, but that doesn't matter to me. I show them all love and respect."

COMING UP

March 2: Chili Cook-Off and Talent Show, 12:30 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

March 2-4: Library Book Sale

March 16-17: Dixie Rock 18 Competition, UNC-Chapel Hill Fetzer Gymnasium.

Information: 968-2787 ext. 214 or bwebster@townofchapelhill.org.

March 28: Public Forum on Town Budget, 7 p.m., Town Hall Council Chamber

April 6: Easter Holiday



Children ages 2-10 are invited to hunt for eggs on March 31 at Homestead Park. The free event runs from 9:30 a.m. until noon. A previous celebration outside the Carolina Inn is pictured above.

In Brief

Shelton Burnette (Public Works) has been promoted to the position of Streets and Construction Services Superintendent.



Town employees are invited to a retirement party for Police Chief **Gregg Jarvies**, who is retiring after 32 years of service. The party will be held from 5:30

to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 30, with a tribute at 6:15 p.m., at The Friday Center in Chapel Hill. RSVP: 968-2870 or rsvp@townofchapelhill.org.

As part of a reorganization in the Streets and Construction Services Division of the Public Works Department, **Greg Ling** will head up the Streets Program.



Many of the guests were babies at a baby shower held on

Feb. 21 for expectant **Amy Oland** (Finance), pictured above at right with daughter Emma Rose, age 21 months. Visitors included

Dorice Johnson (Library), pictured above left with son Jordan, 10 months, as well as **Rae Buckley** (left, Planning) with her wee one, Betty, 2 months. We wish Amy and her husband Christian all the best!



Melanie Miller photo

Construction is nearing completion on the new Town Operations Center, the largest capital project in Town government's history at \$42.9 million. The Public Works Administration Building may be occupied in the upcoming weeks while the entire moving process for all of Public Works and Transportation department is expected to continue through the end of March. Recently, a traffic signal was installed at Eubanks and Millhouse roads. Landscaping work has begun. Stay tuned for the announcement of the grand opening sometime in April.



Luke Elisha Sasser (left) was born to Fire Equipment Operator **David Sasser** and his wife, Alyson, on Saturday, Feb. 3, around 3 a.m. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 12 oz. Mom, Dad and baby are all doing very well.

As part of a reorganization in the Streets and Construction Services Division of the Public Works Department, the Construction and Drainage Program will be supervised by **Robert Sykes**.

As part of a reorganization of the Public Works Department, **Richard Terrell** will provide direct assistance to the Public Works Director and be responsible for multi-divisional coordination of routine, new and special operations.

Wes Tilghman (Parks and Recreation) has announced his marriage to Alice Michelle Williams. The wedding took place on Feb. 24, and they are planning to have a larger gathering of friends and co-workers in the summer to celebrate their new life together.



New Employees (since Jan. 26)

Gerald Aiken (Fire), Firefighter
Patricia Carroll (Library), Materials Processor
Laurel Cotton (Transportation), Transit Operator II
Suzanne Ford-Goldhagen (Library), Library Assistant III
Jared Greenlee (Police), Police Officer
Benjamin Lloyd (Police), Police Officer
Adam Lockhart (Fire), Firefighter
Cory Ryan (Police), Police Officer
Stephen Shaw (Police), Police Officer
Charles Shehan (Police), Police Officer
Samuel Smith (Fire), Firefighter
Patrick Spencer (Fire), Firefighter
Gregory Taylor (Police), Police Officer
James Turney (Police), Police Officer
Michael Walter (Police), Police Officer

Retiring Employees

Pam Kilby (Library): Feb. 1

TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

TOWNtalk is produced by the Town Information Office with assistance from the Human Resources Department and Clerk's Office. Editorial/Graphics: Catherine Lazorko, Melanie Miller
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Compliments



David Deming (Transportation) received compliments from Stephanie Beasley for his kindness and patience. She was impressed that he waited for an elderly gentleman with a cane to sit down before pulling off.

Tracey Harris (Transportation) was commended by Rachel Brown for having a positive attitude and always being on time. "Tracey is all that you can ask for in a bus driver!"

Mia Burroughs wrote to express her appreciation to the Town and especially to **Kumar Neppali** and **Ernie Rogers** (Engineering), for the installation of speed tables to improve traffic safety in the Cedar Hills Neighborhood.

Jaime Palacios (Transportation) was thanked by Chantelle Paydarfar for his concern for her safety. She had to walk almost a mile in the dark at 11 p.m., and Palacios went out of his way to ensure she reached her destination safely.

Raymond Weston (Transportation) was commended by Donna Rogue for keeping his bus well-maintained, safe, and on time. "He is one of your outstanding bus drivers."

Recycling



Orange Community Recycling will hold a compost bin sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 7 at the Eubanks Road Park-and-Ride lot. Bins will be \$39 each. Supplies are limited. The Police Department has done an excellent job of reducing the amount of recyclable waste in its trash to below 10 percent. In the past year, the amount of recyclable materials in the trash has dropped from 17 percent to a remarkably low 9 percent. The amount has decreased 75 percent since 2002, when 38 percent of waste was found to be recyclable. It is the only one of all local government buildings to request additional audits to follow up on previous performance, which has contributed to the success of its recycling program.

— Blair Pollock (Orange Community Recycling)



Catherine Lazorko photo

Cal Horton Service Award – The Town Council received a \$100,000 check on Feb. 26 to establish an endowment to provide service awards to Town employees for distinguished service. The community raised the funds in honor of former Town Manager **Cal Horton** (pictured at left with public works employee **Maggie Burnett**) upon his retirement last fall. The Foundation for a Sustainable Community, Inc., a not-for-profit charitable corporation established by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, spearheaded the fundraiser.

Affordable Rentals

The **Housing Department** is accepting applications for affordable rentals. You may be eligible if you have an annual income not more than 80 percent of the area median. The eligibility income limits are: \$57,050 for a 4-person household, \$51,350 for a 3-person household, 45,650 for a 2-person household, and \$39,950 for one person. Monthly rent is based on household income.

Apartments are available in sizes ranging from one to five bedrooms. Apartments are conveniently located and have easy access to public transit. Information: 968-2850 ext. 16.

Downtown Project

Manager Roger Stancil was authorized by the Council last month to complete negotiations with Ram Development Co. to develop Town-owned Parking Lot 5 with frontage on West Franklin and Rosemary streets. The \$75 million development would combine condominiums and retail businesses, parking and a public plaza. After the agreement is finalized, the next step would be to begin Chapel Hill's normal development review process, requiring review by Town boards and input of citizens. Ram has requested a schedule that would bring the application for development review in fall 2007.

Video Messages

A video production project of a UNC journalism class has produced new Town videos. **Catherine Lazorko** (Manager's), working with **Kurt Neufang** (Transportation), **Bill Webster** (Parks and Recreation), and **Kevin Gunter** (Police,) coordinated the project in the fall 2006 semester. The videos are airing on Chapel Hill TV 18 and are posted on the Town website under the Newsroom: www.townofchapelhill.org/index.asp?nid=1249

Employee Forum



New Employee Forum officers for the 2007 calendar year were elected at the January meeting.

Chair: **Amy Harvey** (Clerk's Office)
Vice Chair: **Karen Patillo** (Public Works)
Secretary: **Lauren Draughon** (Engineering)

Current Employee Forum Members:

Wallace Alston (Transportation)
Lisa Baaske (Parks and Recreation)
Lauren Draughon (Engineering)
Anne Edwards (Transportation)
Tyrone Edwards (Transportation)
Keith Gaudette (Fire)
Mark Geerken (Police)
Amy Harvey (Clerk's Office)
Wilbert Mason (Transportation)
Kay McDaniel (Public Works)
Ken McDouall (Library)
Luther Nash (Inspections)
Karen Patillo (Public Works)
Bill Rehm (Information Technology)
Mike Riggsbee (Public Works)
Heather Robinson (Fire)
Karen Rose (Police)
Dana Stidham (Planning)
Jacqueline Thompson (Housing)
Bryan Walker (Police)

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS to *TOWNtalk!*

The next deadline is April 2 for the April issue, distributed on April 13 with the biweekly payroll.

Step 4 Your Health Wellness

The Human Resources Department has created the Step 4 Your Health Wellness Program to help employees become more active and develop healthier lifestyles. Please note that March 2 is the last day to enroll in the program.

At the kickoff event on Feb. 22 (pictured at right), attendees signed up for the program and heard a presentation on nutrition, exercise and stress management. Future Lunch and Learn sessions will cover topics such as smoking cessation, healthy cooking, and cancer prevention.

Through June 2, employee participants can receive Wellness Points for physical fitness activities, health screenings, and more, which are redeemable for up to \$250 in cash prizes. Participants will also receive monthly newsletters. Information: 968-2700.



Catherine Lazorko photo

Information for New Employees

Let's all welcome and assist our new employees! New employees are required to attend New Employee Orientation and a benefits signup session. Departments are encouraged to clip n' save the following information. Questions should be directed to the Human Resources Department at 968-2700.

Benefits Signup

This event occurs every Tuesday morning. Any new employee who has started work since the previous Tuesday is notified by his/her department's Payroll and Benefits representative to attend Benefits Signup.

- It is important and to their advantage for new employees to complete forms to be enrolled in their benefits programs as soon as possible.
- Benefits signup is usually held in the HR Training room in Town Hall; when there are large numbers (more than 6) of new employees from a single department, these events may be held at another location, such as Transit or Fire.
- During this event, new employees complete forms to sign up for health insurance, 401K and retirement programs, disability insurance and other voluntary programs for which they are eligible as Town employees.
- The session begins at 9:30 am and usually lasts for no more than two hours, after which the employee is free to return to work.
- If an employee misses the first Tuesday session after they report to work, their department Payroll and Benefits rep will need to remind them to attend the next one.

New Employee Orientation

This event occurs periodically during the year. A session is scheduled either when recent new hires reach a total of 15 or every 4-6 weeks, whichever comes first.

- All new employees hired since the last session are scheduled by written invitation from Human Resources to attend the session.
- Departments are also notified directly and are expected to communicate with the new employee(s) and their immediate supervisors about the need to attend this mandatory session and also to arrange for their transportation to and from the event, as Town Hall parking is limited. This task is usually done by the departmental Payroll and Benefits representative.
- The event begins at 8:30 am in the Human Resources Training room in Town Hall. It includes appearances and messages from the Manager, Assistant Managers, Safety Officer, Workplace Violence presenter, Human Resources Director and others who present important information for the new employees.

- Some aspects of the session are required by law (for example, training on Bloodborne pathogens).
- New employees are provided with an overview of the Town's organizational structure, management team, resource materials and a copy of the Employee Handbook. Most participants tell us they have found this helpful.
- Employees sign in as attendees to provide a record of the session and also sign an acknowledgement that each has received a copy of the Employee Handbook and that he/she understands that they are expected to be aware of the policies and other information included in the Handbook. This acknowledgement is placed in each employee's personnel record.
- The session ends at noon; lunch is then provided to the group to allow participants to become acquainted. Following lunch, employees are free to return to work around 1 p.m. Departments are requested to provide transportation for employees outside Town Hall to return to their work sites.