



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

October 2006
Vol. 3, No. 2

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

Teamwork

I believe in teamwork. We enhance the value each of us adds to our community when we work together to achieve our goals. I am looking for leaders in our organization who know how to lead and develop teams as we address organizational and community challenges.

I visited with Inspections last week as part of my learning Town departments and meeting employees. They talked about the problems created when their plan reviews are completed individually by inspectors from their separate disciplines such as building, mechanical, electrical, plumbing. One inspector might solve a problem looking at it from their one perspective which, when the project is viewed as a whole, creates a greater problem. Problems are especially difficult to resolve if that greater problem is discovered after construction. Their solution is to conduct a multi-disciplinary review of plans so the effect one has on the whole system is evident to everyone during the discussion and solutions are created before construction. Sounds like teamwork to me.

The Inspections example has lessons for all we do. Coordinated planning up front saves costly time later trying to fix a problem later. Looking at an issue from a systemic perspective may identify unintended and unforeseen consequences and possible solutions.

You already do this well. Halloween planning and Combined Campaign efforts are good examples. Think about how you can play a greater role in making teamwork our way of life.

Josh Jonassaint

Joined Town: April 2004

Department: Parks & Recreation

Duties

As the front desk attendant at the Chapel Hill Community Center pool, Josh checks people in and helps coordinate aquatic programs. He makes sure instructors are present and have what they need. He is certified as a Lifeguard Instructor.

Personal

Josh is in his second year of coursework for a bachelor's degree in recreation at North Carolina State University. He also works for the Red Cross teaching CPR and for UNC Hospitals as fitness instructor and program coordinator. When he finishes school, he hopes to work in aquatics and possibly own an indoor wave pool or water park.

Josh's family moved to North Carolina from British Columbia five years ago. He misses Canadian-style Froot Loops, Mars Bars, and toffee. In Canada, he was in the Air Cadets and worked in filmmaking first as an extra, then as a production assistant. He plans to move back to Canada after finishing school.

In the Spotlight



Photo by Melanie Miller

Personal Philosophy

To be a good leader, you have to know how to follow.

Quote

"Aside from having one of the toughest responsibilities in our department (scheduled to be at work at 5 a.m.), Josh is one of those jack-of-all-trades folks who is able to fill in as a lifeguard, researcher, computer software trainer, or mind reader at a moment's notice. We're fortunate to have Josh on our team." — Kathryn Spatz

COMING UP

Oct. 9: Columbus Day (not a Town holiday)

Oct 18-22: UNC Fall Break

Oct. 29: Daylight Savings Time ends; set clocks back one hour

Oct. 31: Halloween



HAPPY HALLOWEEN — Several features have been added to further enhance public safety and traffic flow during celebrations on Halloween, including: 40 additional officers to staff a larger event area on the west end of Franklin Street, motorcycle officers to patrol the perimeter of the event, officers on horseback, and portable lights for areas that are not normally illuminated at night.

In Brief



Amy Harvey (Clerk's Office) donated her hair to the Locks for Love organization in honor of her grandmother, Smithie Olson, who died of cancer. Fantastic Sams sponsors

the program, which uses donated hair to make wigs for children suffering from medical hair loss. Information: www.locksoflove.org.

Ted Hobgood (Manager's Office) is the voice of ComedySportz every Saturday at 7:30 p.m. He also produces CageMatch on Saturdays at 11 p.m., which pits two teams of comedians against each other with the audience deciding the winner. It all takes place at the DSI Comedy Theater in back of Carr Mill Mall, near Elmo's Diner. Information: www.dsicomedytheater.com.



Ralph Karpinos (Attorney) was selected chair of the Government and Public Law Section of the NC Bar Association for 2006-07.

Woody Meadows (Engineering) has achieved certification as a Level III Traffic Signal Technician, the highest level of field certification available through the International Municipal Signal Association Certification Program.

The **Police Department** received the McIver Award from Residential Services Inc. in recognition of the department's outstanding outreach and delivery of services to persons with developmental disabilities.

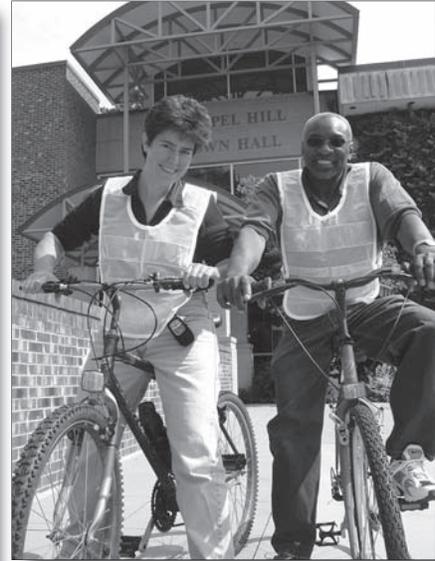


TOWNtalk is produced by the Town Information Office:

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CAR FREE DAY — Numerous employees observed Car Free Day on Sept. 22 by carpooling and riding the bus, including Town Manager Roger L. Stancil, pictured at left. Bobby Pettiford and Maggie Bowers (Inspections), pictured at right, challenged each other to ride their bicycles from the Eubanks Park and Ride lot after driving in from Mebane and Durham, respectively. The fuel efficiency of a fully-occupied bus, a common sight in this area, is six times greater than that of the average single-occupant auto.



Matt Sullivan (Police) passed the Bar exam and will soon be an official member of the North Carolina Bar. He attended law school on a part-time basis over the past several years while maintaining a full caseload.

Bill Webster (Parks & Recreation) has been appointed interim parks and recreation director effective Nov. 1. Webster will fill a post made vacant by the departure of Kathryn Spatz, who is leaving Chapel Hill to take a position at Fauquier County, Va. Webster joined the Town as an outdoor and nature specialist in 1980 and held a variety of positions before becoming assistant director in 1998.

FREE FLU SHOTS will be administered Oct. 23-24 in the Sanitation Conference Room at Public Works. Contact Donna Tench at 968-2700 or dtench@townofchapelhill.org to schedule your appointment time. Pre-registration is required.

GOT NEWS? We welcome your submission of news and notes to TOWNtalk. The next deadline is Oct. 30 for the November Issue. Send to tio@townofchapelhill.org.

All Our Little Angels

Congratulations to employees of the **Fire Department** with new arrivals! Grace Elizabeth Stephens (bottom), born Sept. 13 to Firefighter **Chris Stephens** (Fire) and wife April, joins sister Gabrielle, 4, and brother Hunter, 17 months. Tyler James Bona (left) was born May 1 to FEO **Jim Bona** (Fire) and his wife Cheryl. Vencelin Miles Harris (right), first child of Battalion Chief **Vencelin Harris** (Fire) and his wife Danita, was born on Aug. 8.



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Please recycle with white paper.



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New Phones!

Be sure to pick up a new yellow telephone directory from the Clerk's Office because several phone numbers have changed with the installation of a new phone system at Town Hall in late September.

There are no more 3-digit extensions; all extensions are now 4-digit. You may reach someone within Town Hall by picking up the receiver and dialing his/her 4-digit extension.

Outside callers receive recordings to inform them of changed phone numbers. The old phone numbers printed in the current BellSouth telephone directory still connect, although over time the new main phone number for the Town of Chapel Hill will convert to: 969-5000. When dialing from outside, everyone in Town Hall can now be reached with his/her new 7-digit



number. The new phone system is based on Cisco's Avvid platform. Information: 968-2735.

Retiree Corner

If you're a retiree, stay in touch! Send your brief news items by reaching the *TOWNtalk* editor at tio@townofchapelhill.org or call 919/969-5055.

Fred Battle (Public Works) was appointed in June by the Orange County Board of Commissioners to serve a three-year term on the Orange Water and Sewer Authority board of directors. Battle is retired from the Town of Chapel Hill, where he served in the positions of public works superintendent, parks superintendent and director of the Hargraves Center.



MaryJean Williams

(Finance and Housing) retired June 30 after 16 years as Housing Accountant. She will spend her retirement busily devoting

herself to the numerous charities that she has been active in for years.

Combined Campaign



Thanks to you for participating in the Combined Campaign kick-off on Sept. 29! Employees raised more than \$600 for charities by buying lunch and baked goods and playing games. Coming up are kick-off events at Public Works on Oct. 13 and Transportation on Oct. 20. Games continue at the Engineering Department with prizes for tournament winners (check with Jeannette Taylor: 968-2892!) Employees may fill out pledge cards and return them to their department representatives by Oct. 24. Thank you for considering payroll deductions in support of Community Health Charities, Earth Share of North Carolina, NC Community Shares and Triangle United Way. Pictured above left, **Len Cone** (Planning) shows off a plate of nachos n' chili, while **Tanita Howard** (Clerk's) visits with a federation representative.

Employee Forum



We Want You!

Have you been employed with the Town on a permanent basis for at least one year in good standing? Do you want the opportunity to help effect change? Have strong leadership skills? Consider lending your skills to the Employee Forum! Most departments will have a Forum member whose term expires in December.

Participating departments should have received a notice of the election and a request for nominees. Please return your nomination form to Human Resources. HR will distribute ballots for all viable nominees in mid-October, and by the end of November the election process should be complete.

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 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
- Assist in the communication of issues and activities affecting employees.

—Elections Work Group

Need a Computer?

Employees now have the opportunity to bid on surplus Town computers at www.govdeals.com. They are being sold as sets, including keyboard, speakers, mouse, and CPU with bids starting at \$20. Not all auctions will include monitors, only where specified.

Another opportunity for employees needing computers is a loan program run by the IT Department. Employees interested in borrowing a computer for one year may submit their names to their Employee Forum representative. The Forum will hold a lottery drawing on Nov. 9. Any names received after the meeting will be held until the next opportunity. The systems are Dell Optiplex GX240 with Windows 2000, Pentium 4 1.8 Ghz, 256 MB RAM, 40 GB hard drive, CD-R drive, speakers, and monitor. No modems are provided. Ethernet cards are pre-installed and can be used for DSL and cable internet service but not dial-up.

—Computer Work Group

Congratulations Employees!

Employees were recognized with awards on Sept. 22 for reaching milestones of service.



Milestones

5 Years

Michael Davis (Public Works)
Forrest Heath (Public Works)
Bradford Henderson (Fire)
Mark Kern (Public Works)
Edward Larsen (Library)
Stanley Newsome (Police)
Lance Norris (Inspections)
Kay Pearlstein (Planning)
Mark Rodgers (Transportation)
Wes Tilghman (Parks & Recreation)
Michael Troutman (Parks & Recreation)

10 Years

Robert Borgesi (Fire)
Patricia Bowden (Transportation)
Marion Dixon (Transportation)
Michael Gary (Public Works)
Kim Nguyen (Transportation)
Wendy Smith (Stormwater Management)
James Ward (Transportation)
Joyce Wilson (Transportation)

15 Years

Lisa Baaske (Parks & Recreation)
Curtis Brooks (Public Works)
Larry Harrington (Public Works)
Bernard Leach (Parks & Recreation)
Leonard Thompson (Parking)

20 Years

Jerry Council (Public Works)

25 Years

Keith Porterfield (Fire)

30 Years

Susan McClure (Library)
Louise Pettis (Inspections)
Richard Terrell (Public Works)

31 Years

Larry Stroud (Public Works)

33 Years

Nate Davis (Parks & Recreation)

New Employees (February - August 2006)

Rachel Batton (Police), Police Officer
Scott Bolden (Police), Police Officer
Tiffanie Brown (Transportation), Transit Operator
Steven Calder (Transportation), Service Attendant
Lela Copeland (Transportation), Transit Operator
Kathryn Corey (Library), Library Assistant
Michael Crabtree (Fire), Firefighter
Alonza Crisp (Transportation), Transit Operator
Julie Daniel (Fire), Firefighter
Jonathan Edens (Public Works), Administrative Clerk
Myra Evans (Parking), Records Technician
Anne Filiaci (Library) Librarian
Brendan Fitzgerald (Parking), Parking Attendant
Matthew Hartsoe (Fire), Firefighter
Malcolm Hester (Fire), Firefighter
Margaret Hite (Library), Librarian Supervisor
James Johnson (Engineering), Traffic Signal Technician
Eric Jones (Fire), Firefighter
Anna Leos-Urbel (Planning), Planner
Gary Mangum (Transportation), Transit Operator
Marcia Margotta (Transportation), Administrative Analyst

Promotions

Brad Henderson (Fire) was promoted from Firefighter to Fire Equipment Operator.
Danny Lloyd (Police) was promoted from Officer to Sergeant.
Rod Matthews (Police) was promoted from Officer to Sergeant.
Chuck Quinlan (Police) was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant.
Scott Taylor (Police) was promoted from Officer to Sergeant.



Joseph Mcmillar (Transportation), Transit Operator

Casey Miller (Transportation), Transit Operator

Larry Morrissey (Fire), Firefighter

Larry Newsome (Transportation), Transit Operator

Mark North (Police), Police Officer

Quandra Paylor (Transportation), Transit Operator

Brandon Phillips (Public Works), Construction Worker

Charles Philpot (Fire), Firefighter

Nicholas Pittman (Transportation), Safety Training and Security Coordinator

Johnny Pompey (Parks & Rec) Recreation Specialist

Heather Robinson (Fire), Firefighter

Carl Rokos (Transportation), Transportation Maintenance Superintendent

Frost Rollins (Planning), Planner

Jeffrey Ryan (Fire), Firefighter

Milan Sabanosh (Police), Police Officer

Rhonda Sommer (Finance), Accounting Services Manager

Joseph Stiff (Public Works), Construction Worker

Ronald Stinnett (Transportation), Transit Operator

Steve Spade (Transportation), Transportation Director

William Worth (Transportation), Transit Operator III

Retirees

Jonathan Bell (Fire) March 1

Michael Brown (Public Works) April 1

Claude Lyons (Police) May 1

Alice Mogle (Library) May 1

Jane Dyer (Library) July 1

Brady Moore (Public Works) July 1

MaryJean Williams (Finance) July 1

James Ward (Transportation) Aug. 1

Cal Horton (Manager) Sept. 1

