



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

November 2006
Vol. 3, No. 3

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

Shared Values

In the September TOWNtalk, I shared with you some of my values. I did that because I believe our values drive our behavior. It is easier to understand why people do what they do if we understand what is important to them. I thought that if I clearly stated my values, you might understand my actions and decisions better. In fact, I asked you to talk with me if you did not think my actions reflected my stated values.

Department heads, the deputy and assistant managers and I will be meeting on Nov. 9-10 to develop a statement of our shared values so we can share them with you. That set of shared values can then become the basis for your discussion of decisions within your department. I believe such discussions can only lead to greater understanding by everyone of the reasons for, and results of, our decisions. Greater understanding leads to shared commitment or a realization that a different decision might be better. In any case, we are a more effective team.

In the coming months, I will be asking you to review the shared values of the management team as the basis for a set of values we all share. As I stated in September, I believe we will find we have much in common because of how we have chosen to spend our lives, in public service. Once we have established a set of shared values, we will develop a system for talking with each other about what we do and how we do it, based on the goals of the Town and our shared values.

I am looking for your help in taking this excellent organization to the next level.

Julie Waller

**Occupational Health
and Safety Officer**

Joined Town: November 2005

Department: Human Resources

Duties: Julie deals with safety issues, including inspections, safety and workers comp, and substance abuse. She administers the Substance Abuse and Workers Compensation Programs, as well as Occupational Health and Safety Compliance.

Her goal is to keep employees from getting hurt, and she reminds us to work safely and report unsafe conditions. If employees do get hurt, they should report injuries to their supervisors right away and follow their doctor's instructions. She advises, "Being hurt changes your quality of life. Work safely, and report anything unsafe in the work environment."

Personal: Julie is originally from upstate New York, where she spent a lot of time on the ice as a figure skater and hockey player. She played center on the first girl's ice hockey team and was part of a traveling team, the Shooting Stars. In her first career, she was a firefighter in the U.S. Navy, serving in Iceland and Spain.

In the Spotlight



Melanie Miller photo

Julie is married to Barry, an Alamance County detention officer. She has two sons, Joel, 21, and Noah, 5. She is involved in music ministry in the singing group Endless Grace and as director of a children's choir. Julie also coaches soccer and softball and takes online classes in Occupational Health and Safety.

Personal Philosophy: Be thankful for every day. Every day is a gift.

Quote: "Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible."

COMING UP

Nov. 17: Arbor Day;
also Thanksgiving Employee Luncheon,
noon to 2 p.m., Fire Station 1.

Nov. 23-24: Thanksgiving (Town holiday)

Dec. 2-3: Library Book Sale

**Dec. 7: Sugar and Spice Employee
Appreciation Event, 9 to 10:30 a.m. at
Hargraves Center.**



Catherine Lazorko photo

The Thanksgiving potluck will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 17 at Fire Station 1. Bring a dish to share.

In Brief



Becky Fisseha (Library) welcomed her first grandchild, Desta Fisseha, on April 10. Desta weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20 inches long. Grandma Becky is reactivating long dormant arm and back muscles.

TOWNtalk was awarded the Silver Circle Award for outstanding achievement in local government communications. The national award was presented on Oct. 12 from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) at its 18th annual conference.

Sonya Reddick Shaw (Parks and Recreation) and her husband, Ronald, are the proud parents of Logan Christopher Reddick Shaw, born at 11:45 a.m. Nov. 2. He weighed 6 lbs 10 oz. and is 21 ½ inches long – a definite Carolina Basketball Star!

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce's Foundation for a Sustainable Community honored **Susanna Williams** (Fire) and **David Funk** (Police) with Public Service Officer Awards of the Year. The awards were presented at a ceremony held in October.

Be sure to say "hello" to our new interns, the first to participate in the Town of Chapel Hill Undergraduate Internship Program. They are **Emily Moore** (Clerk's Office); **William Gingham** and **Grace Webster** (Council); **Steven Lowrance** (Finance); **Ashlee Prevette** (Fire); **Lakeisha Blake** (Housing); **Ronald Williams** (Human Resources); **Enoch Chen** (IT), **Grace Ko** (Inspections), and **Amelia Strope** (Library). The Council established the internship program to expose students to career fields of interest in local government.



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Printing: Tanita Howard



Catherine Lazorko photo

*There were numerous birthdays in the Manager's and Clerk's offices recently. Employees (left to right) **Sandy Kline, Myrna Lopez, Melanie Miller, Carol Abernethy, Sabrina Oliver, Tanita Howard** and **Ted Hobgood** (not pictured) all had birthdays in October. Does your department celebrate birthdays? Send your photos to tio@townofchapelhill.org, and we'll publish them in **TOWNtalk**!*



Veterans of the Armed Forces who work for the Town of Chapel Hill were honored in a brief ceremony at the Town Council meeting on Nov. 6. The Mayor and Council also recognized relatives of Town employees who are serving in active duty. More than 50 of our Town employees are veterans, and these include firefighters **Kevin Ferro** (top) and **James Taylor** (bottom). We thank all for their service and intend to publish the list of names in our next issue.

Want to **create a professional email signature** file? Visit townhall.townofchapelhill.org/_signature/ to fill out an online form provided by Bill Rehm from IT. Information: 969-5047.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS to **TOWNtalk**! The next deadline is Nov. 23 for the December issue. Send to tio@townofchapelhill.org or by mail to Catherine Lazorko (Manager's Office).

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.



Employee & Family Day in the Park on Sept. 30 was attended by nearly 200 employees and family members, who enjoyed beautiful weather, lunch, music and activities at the Chapel Hill Community Center. The door prize, a three-day stay at the Courtyard Marriott in Chapel Hill, was won by **Jackie Thompson** (Housing). Special Thanks to Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Fire and Police departments, Scurlock's Catering, Parrish Anderson, and R. S. Moonwalk.



A Town-owned alternative fuel vehicle was on display Oct. 13-22 at the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Odyssey

Exhibit at the State Fair in Raleigh. Public Works employees, including **Bill Terry, Karen Patillo, Kay McDaniel**, and **Terry Battle**, volunteered to give information to the public about the Honda Civic CNG, which runs on compressed natural gas.

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Town of Chapel Hill
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
tio@townofchapelhill.org or (919) 969-5055

Compliments



Maggie Bowers (Inspections) was commended for exceptional service in dealing with a neighborhood problem: "Ms. Bowers exhibited a high level of patience. . .and a thorough understanding of the various codes and procedures that govern the town," said Kurt Riitters.

Cindy Holdrich expressed her appreciation for bus driver **Annie Brown's** thoughtfulness in not starting the bus until she had found a seat. "She is so very considerate and very pleasant to ride with. I really appreciate her."

Bus driver **Greg Lindsey** received compliments on Oct. 23 from rider Jackie Ashley for making an extra stop at the end of the route. "I truly appreciate his kindness and want to thank Chapel Hill Transit for hiring professional, thoughtful drivers."

Bus driver **Timeka Purcell** was thanked by rider Angie Vargas for her assistance in September. Vargas had not ridden the bus in about 10 years and was not familiar with the routes. "Timeka took the time to explain about the service. She was a godsend and very helpful."

Rob Clark thanked bus driver **Ureza Evans** for her courtesy. Clark was running toward the JFX bus at Carrington Hall when the bus started to pull off, but Evans stopped and waited for him.

Bus driver **Joseph McMiller** was complimented by a rider on the N route for being proactive by doing a walk-around safety inspection of his bus after stopping at Estes Park Apartments.

Recycling

Now is the time to mulch the garden, turn the compost and add it to the soil to get your plants ready for their winter nap.

Orange County landfill offers high quality mulch and compost at reasonable rates from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Contact Muriel Williman of Orange County's Solid Waste Office for expert composting advice at 968-2788 or email recycling@co.orange.nc.us

— Muriel Williman (Orange Community Recycling)



Catherine Lazorko photo

Korean government officials from Seoul's Guro District signed a Declaration of Friendship with the Town of Chapel Hill on Oct. 10. The Korean delegation met with Mayor Kevin Foy and other Town officials at Town Hall.

Employee Forum



Town Manager Roger Stancil attended the October Employee Forum meeting to meet the group and discuss expectations.

He began by talking about his first experience in municipal service when he worked in a human relations department. Eventually, he decided he wanted to become a City Manager. He went back to school and got a master's degree in public administration, and worked his way up from there. He comes to us from Fayetteville where he served as City Manager.

Roger stated he was excited to find out about the Employee Forum. He feels this is a great group for him to ask for assistance in promoting multicultural learning and training. In the past, Roger has established multicultural training and education programs. Some of these programs were included in Supervisor/Manager training and in social activities such as lunch programs to learn more about different cultures.

Our Town Manager hopes that the Employee Forum will be a great group to work with for inspiring creative ideas for multicultural programs and employee recognition. He said that he looks forward to working with us.

Don't forget to vote on your representative for the Employee Forum!

— Wendy Walsh (Human Resources)

Safety Sense

Safety in the workplace is everyone's responsibility. Report any unsafe acts or conditions to your supervisor immediately. Don't be the one to look the other way. — Julie Waller (HR)

I Chose To Look The Other Way

By Don Merrell

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care,
I had the time, and I was there.
But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before,
If I called it wrong, he might get sore.
The chances didn't seem that bad,
I've done the same, he knew I had.
So, I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.
He took the chance, I closed an eye,
And with that act I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need to share.
If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake.
The question asked, or thing you say,
Could help them live another day.
If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

Halloween Festival 2006



Halloween on Franklin Street drew a crowd of approximately 70,000 people.

Town Manager Roger L. Stancil observed: "The teamwork among employees from different departments is outstanding."

The streets were cleared of people at 2:25 a.m. and opened to traffic around 3:50 a.m., after being cleaned by Town crews.

Twenty-seven people were arrested or cited in the closed area. Orange County Emergency Medical Services responded to 40 calls, and 18 people were transported to UNC Hospitals.

Most of the calls were related to intoxication.

Police Chief Gregg Jarvies said, "The use of light standards, the increased

number of officers, and the motorcycle and mounted units all contributed to the success of the event.

Most important however was the outstanding performance of the men and women who worked diligently to protect the safety of the event participants."

Photos by Catherine Lazorko



TEAM EFFORT — The Halloween event requires a massive cooperative effort of public safety (more than 400 officers attended briefing at Hill Hall), transit, parking and public works, all coordinated at Central Command, pictured at right; with care and observation by many including Police Chief Gregg Jarvies and Town Manager Roger L. Stancil, pictured above. New this year were mounted patrol, including Fayetteville Officer Jose Lamboy with horse Cricket (above).

