



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

June 2006
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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report



By Cal Horton,
Town Manager

By the time the next edition of the newsletter is published in September, I will be retired from Town service.

I look forward to a quieter period of my life, with more time for personal interests. I will not miss night meetings and editing draft agenda items on weekends, but I will miss working with the Town Council. I will not miss the stress of managing a complicated organization, but I will certainly miss working with all of you.

There have been many occasions in the 16 years that I have been Town Manager when I have felt extraordinarily proud to be associated with you. Most prominent in my memory is your work to help the community recover from Hurricane Fran. Employees in every department made their own contribution to restore Town services to normal conditions. You worked in extremely difficult circumstances through weeks of long hours. Your selfless dedication to public service set a remarkable example that I have referred to often in the years since the storm.

You always have done what is required in emergency conditions. But, I think the truest measure of the quality of your work comes through the services that you provide every day. You consistently deliver excellent services with limited resources. I know that you will continue to do so with the leadership of a new Manager.

I also know that you will continue to treat all people with dignity and respect; and that you will provide fair, effective, efficient and fast public service.

Respectfully yours,
Cal

Celisa Lehew

Police Officer

Joined Town: September 2003

Duties: Celisa patrols nights in the downtown district including Franklin and Rosemary streets, and days around NC 15-501, I-40 and Weaver Dairy Road.

Personal: She alternates day and night shifts every two weeks, and when she's off, her police officer husband, Steve Lehew, is working. They get weekends off together to spend with their daughter Madisyn, a second grader at Scroggs Elementary.

Celisa received a merit service award on May 24 for outstanding work. While chasing a burglary suspect through the woods, she ran over a bees nest. Long after the pursuit was over and she had filed her report, she finally sought medical treatment. She discovered she had been stung more than 30 times. She says it "must have been the adrenaline" that kept her going and brushes off praise for what she considers to be a normal response any officer would take in the line of duty. "It wasn't anything heroic," she insists. This summer she

In the Spotlight



is carrying a bee sting kit because the experience of multiple stings has increased her risk of an allergic reaction.

A native of St. Joseph Island, Ontario, Celisa grew up around the water and enjoys all water sports, especially water skiing. She and her husband enjoy boating at Jordan Lake and throughout the state. She likes interacting with people, being outside, and encountering the unexpected and challenging, all of which her job brings her on a daily basis.

Quote: "Set goals for yourself. When you attain one, set another and keep striving."

COMING UP:

June 16: Employee Appreciation Luncheon, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Chapel Hill High School

June 18: Father's Day

June 26 - 30: Health and Dental Open Enrollment Meetings. All paperwork due July 21.

July 4: Independence Day

TOWNtalk will be on hiatus until September. Enjoy your summer!



Carol Abernethy Photo

Construction of the Town Operations Center is under way at Millhouse Road. The \$51.8 million project is scheduled for completion in December.

In Brief



The Fire Department Honor Guard (above) participated in the dedication ceremony May 6 for the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Raleigh. The parade included Fire Engine 34.

Robert Ruley was recognized for outstanding service when he was selected for the Public Works Department's Employee of the Month Award for April 2006.



Shelton Burnette (left), Construction Supervisor, and **Phil Williams**, Mechanic Supervisor,

were chosen for the Public Works Department Supervisor of the Year Award.



Reserve Officer **Tom Griggs** (right), pictured with Chief **Gregg Jarvis**

was presented the Herman Stone Award at the annual police awards ceremony.



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Karen Patillo (Public Works), pictured here with sons Kareem, 7 (left) and Ezekiel, 2 (right), is building a Habitat for Humanity/Orange Community Housing and Land Trust Home in the Northside neighborhood. Patillo has been working nearly every weekend and hopes to move in this summer. Volunteers are welcome on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Call Karen in advance. Thanks to employees in Planning, Police and Public Works, who have contributed to the project.

Cathy Andrews (Planning) was the winner of the Scoop-It Day raffle for a \$50 Wal-Mart gift certificate.



Weeks of training paid off for the **Chapel Hill Transit** team at the NC Rodeo in April. The competition brings the best transit drivers from across the state to test their skills and abilities in the areas of driving, wheelchair loading and securement, pre-trip inspection and a written test. The top finishers in each division are rewarded with a trophy and check.

The team (pictured at left) won Best in the Van Competition and **Travis Parker** placed second in the individual van category. The team (pictured at left, l-r) included **Robert Earhart, David Damin, Travis Parker, William Carter, and Felix Bloch.**



Law enforcement officers blazed through Carrboro and Chapel Hill with the **Special Olympics' Flame of Hope** on May 30, two days before the opening ceremonies of the state's Special Olympics Summer Games kickoff. Many from the Chapel Hill Police Department participated in the 7.3 mile torch run and the effort to raise \$70,000 for Special Olympics North Carolina.

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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Compliments



Bus Driver **Tim Aubles** received praise from Govind Anand for his “charming personality, dedication, and respect for the patrons.”

Joan McCall expressed appreciation for bus driver **Paul Azzu** for being “polite, courteous, friendly, helpful.”

Mr. Huston, a frequent caller to Public Works, said that **Jonathan Edens’** polite, direct and informative manner on the telephone set a new standard for the department. “. . .if all employees could follow this example the town would be indeed well served.”

Bus driver **Pete Orr** was complimented for being “an excellent driver, pleasant, and super nice every time I am on his bus. I park in the P-lot and when it is dark at night when he drops me off I notice that he waits to make sure I am safe in my car. I really appreciate this!” said Jennifer Thomasen.

The **Inspections Department** was commended by Clayton Weaver: “I was in Chapel Hill visiting my mother at 500 West Cameron Avenue last weekend. I want to commend the neighborhood for its neatness.”

Kevin Kuhn and Marc Sodl expressed their appreciation to the **Inspections Department** for its “unique combination of professionalism and integrity.”

The Town of Chapel Hill received glowing praise from Ken Taylor for making the process of opening a business “easy and pleasant.” Town employees, including the **Planning Department, Doug Kelly** (Fire), **Scott Beavers** (Finance), **Ann Pickett** (Finance), **Louise Pettis** (Inspections) and **Cliff Farrington** (Inspections), were all helpful and kind, adding up to a “well-run Town with a good hand at the helm.”



“THE WINNER IS . . .” Employees who come to the Employee Appreciation Luncheon set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 16, at Chapel Hill High School will enjoy a barbecue lunch catered by Hursey’s Bar-B-Q, music, games, and door prizes. Pictured here is **Linda Burnette**, foreground, with **Maggie Burnett** from last year’s luncheon as they pull names of employees who won gift certificates to restaurants, hotels, flower shops and more. Don’t miss the celebration!

Recycling

Household Battery Recycling

Orange County Solid Waste Management has expanded its household battery recycling program to the Weaver Street Market stores in Carrboro and Southern Village. That brings to 10 the number of locations for small household battery recycling throughout Orange County, including also the six solid waste convenience centers, Radio Shack in University Mall, and Whole Foods Market at Village Plaza. At these sites, you can recycle not only flashlight batteries but also all types of button cell batteries now used in cameras, hearing aids and many other electronic devices. Don’t take your automobile batteries also known as lead-acid or wet cell batteries to any of the retail locations; take those only to the Solid Waste Convenience Centers or auto parts stores. Learn more: www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling or 968-2788.

Don’t Take a Vacation from Recycling

Getting ready for your summer vacation? Don’t forget to recycle on the road. Many vacation rentals in North Carolina have recycling along with garbage service, so ask your rental agent how to recycle at your vacation spot. If there is no recycling at your rental unit or motel or campground, try the state’s recycling information web site for your destination: www.re3.org. Most destinations will have at least one public recycling area. If all else fails, bring your recyclables on home to us!

— Blair Pollock, Orange Community Recycling

Employee Forum



The Employee Forum would like to remind all employees that you are eligible to receive a free library card from the Chapel Hill Public Library. This is a benefit of working for the Town, and employees do not need to live within Chapel Hill to be eligible to receive a card.

The Forum would also like to remind you that the new Parks and Recreation brochure is in circulation. There are many programs, services and classes that Parks and Recreation offers for people of all ages and interests.

Town employees can use the Community Center pool free of charge during lap swims in the morning (5:30-8:55 a.m.) and at lunch (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.). Please bring an ID or pay stub for identification. The Community Center also offers free admission during leisure swim sessions once a month. The pool at Hargraves Center offers free swimming (call 968-2816) for schedules.

The Employee Forum held a drawing last month for the use of Town computers for a year. Two people who were selected in this drawing declined the use of the computers, so the Forum initiated another drawing. The two employees that won were **Doris Baldwin** (Transit) and **Jeanette Taylor** (Engineering).

— Wendy Walsh, Employee Forum

Finalists Announced for Town Manager

The Chapel Hill Town Council has announced its three finalists for the position of Town Manager. The three are Frank Ragan, Deputy City Manager of Community Services in Aurora, Colo.; Roger Lane Stancil, former City Manager in Fayetteville, N.C.; and Sean R. Stegall, Assistant City Manager in Elgin, Ill.

“We are very fortunate to have such qualified candidates,” said Mayor Kevin C. Foy. “Each of these people would do an excellent job in Chapel Hill, and I think the Council faces a tough choice.”

The finalist candidates will be in Chapel Hill June 20-21 for interviews with the Town Council and Town Staff. The Council will hold a Public Forum at 7 p.m. June 21 in the Council Chamber of Town Hall. Candidates will make short presentations and take questions from the public and the Council. The Council will also receive feedback from the public about

the finalists. The forum will be cablecast live on Government Cable 18.

“We look forward to the public process,” Foy said, “where citizens will have the opportunity to observe and interact with the candidates.”

The Council announced plans in February to hire a new Town Manager after Cal Horton, Manager for 16 years, announced his retirement, effective Sept. 1. Horton is the longest-serving Manager in Town history.

The Council delegated responsibility for managing the search for a replacement to a committee composed of Mayor Kevin Foy, Mayor pro tem Bill Strom, and Council Members Bill Thorpe and Ed Harrison. The Council, at the committee’s recommendation, hired two local human resources consultants, Anita Badrock and Tim Dempsey. The Council and the committee have been assisted by the Town’s Human Resources staff, led by Director Pam Eastwood.

Advertisements for the position were placed in a variety of publications, including local publications, industry newsletters, and national newspapers, such as *The New York Times*. The consulting team interviewed Council Members and town department heads, then conducted a facilitated session with other town leaders. The result of this work was a candidate profile which incorporated the needs and wants of these stakeholders. The committee has used this profile to evaluate the candidates.

The Town received 102 applications for the position. On May 8, the committee reduced that initial pool to 15 candidates who best matched the profile. Those candidates were given a set of questions; their answers were used to further winnow the pool to eight on May 19.

The members of the committee interviewed the eight via telephone and met again on May 30 to select the group of finalists.

Want to learn more about them? Biographies of the finalist candidates, the candidate profile, a description of the position and other information about the search are available at www.townofchapelhill.org/managersearch. The public and employees also are welcome to attend a public forum featuring presentations from the candidates and a question-and-answer session at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at Town Hall.



Frank Ragan, Deputy City Manager of Community Services in Aurora, Colo.



Roger Lane Stancil, former City Manager in Fayetteville, N.C.



Sean R. Stegall, Assistant City Manager in Elgin, Ill.