

TOWNtalk

May 2006
Vol. 2, No. 9



A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report



By Cal Horton,
Town Manager

The Town Council made a good decision when it removed the Apple Chill street fair from the Town's calendar of special events.

The street fair was not the problem. As always, the event was well-organized, well attended, and enjoyed by thousands of local residents and visitors from the area. My wife and I spent three hours at Apple Chill and had a great time looking at crafts, going off our regular diet to enjoy Polish sausage and Italian ice, inspecting an amazing collection of motorcycles plain and fancy, and simply enjoying being involved in a friendly gathering of folks from all over.

The problem was what happened after Apple Chill: too many cars, too much traffic, too much noise, and too many people looking for trouble and determined to find it. When I heard the gun shots at about 8:40 that night, I worried that people had been killed. It was a relief to find out that there were gunshot injuries but no deaths.

I am grateful to the employees of the Parks and Recreation Department who, for 35 years, delivered a great street fair enjoyed by tens of thousands of residents; I am grateful to the Public Works Department and Engineering Department staff who provided traffic control services, waste management, recycling and clean-up; to the fire fighters who made sure that property was protected and injured people were promptly treated; to the Transportation Department employees who provided shuttle services for fair attendees and staff; and, I am grateful to the Police Department officers and staff who did their best with great success to keep everyone safe in difficult circumstances.

I am especially grateful that none of you were injured, and that all who came to work also went home.

Steve Spade Transportation Director

Joined Town: April 2006

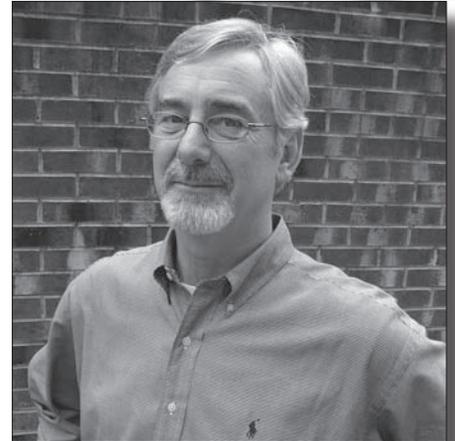
Department: Transportation

Responsibilities: Heading a department with about 170 employees and a budget of more than \$11 million. Chapel Hill Transit serves about 6 million riders a year in the Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and UNC community.

Personal: Steve moved to Chapel Hill from Des Moines, Iowa, where annual snowfall is about 22 inches in a mild year, with his wife, Amber Wagner, and their 2-year-old daughter, Avery. Arriving just in time for spring, the couple is enjoying the seasonal riot of color as they explore the area. While most of their time revolves around caring for Avery, the couple enjoys being physically active. They work out together at the gym, and Steve occasionally runs. Amber previously directed a regional transit system in rural Iowa.

Steve headed the Des Moines Transit Authority, which has more buses and a larger service area but fewer riders than Chapel Hill. A few contrasts between transit systems worth noting: Des Moines has 110 buses, 70 vans and 25 paratransit vehicles serving a regional population of about 400,000. Chapel Hill has 86 buses, no van pools, and 15 paratransit vehicles serving a regional population of about 80,000. In spite of Des Moines' larger size, there are only about half the number of

In the Spotlight



riders. Ridership in Des Moines is about 3.5 million, compared to 6 million in Chapel Hill.

"The challenges here are different," Steve said. "Chapel Hill's system, while smaller, enjoys far greater community support and usage."

Steve was born in southern Michigan, raised in Indiana, and educated at Indiana University. He has taken training behind the wheel to better understand the rigors and responsibilities of bus driving. "It's a tough job," he says. "Drivers have three great stresses: traffic, a demanding public, and a tight schedule."

"I am excited about the opportunity to step in and work with others to apply much of what I've learned to help make a great system even better."

COMING UP:

May 12: Swim free at the Chapel Hill Community Center in honor of Mothers Day

May 19: Employee Appreciation Scoop-It Day, noon to 1:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill Community Center. Enjoy a scoop of your favorite ice cream and toppings.

May 29: Memorial Day (Town holiday)



In Brief

The Fire Department has announced the following: **Robert Bosworth** (Fire) has assumed the duties of training chief. He will also continue to command special operations such as USAR, HazMat, etc. **Caprice Mellon** (Fire) has assumed the duties of operations chief and will supervise the battalion chiefs. She will also oversee fleet issues, communications and pre-fire plans development. **Alvin Ward** (Fire) will be reclassified from assistant chief to deputy chief. He will assume the duties of fire marshal, supervise the assistant fire marshals, and serve as departmental safety officer.

Parking Services has announced the following: **Scott Banks** (Parking) has been promoted to parking services supervisor. **David DeVore** (Parking) has been promoted to assistant parking superintendent. **Brendan Fitzgerald** (Parking) has been promoted to full-time parking attendant. **Lawrence Melville** (Parking) has been promoted to senior parking attendant.

Andrew Fuentes was recognized for outstanding service when he was selected for the Public Works Department's Employee of the Month Award for March 2006.

Chapel Hill firefighters raised more than \$1,800 in the St. Baldrick's Day fundraiser. **David Sasser, John Wellons, and Stacey Graves** (pictured below are Wellons and Sasser) shaved their heads and eyebrows March 23 to raise money for childhood cancer research.



The Chapel Hill Firefighters Association, Local 2580, has been installing sprinklers in Habitat for Humanity homes throughout Orange County since 2003. Recently they have been working on homes in the Nunn Street area of Chapel Hill.

Colleen Lanigan (Parks and Recreation) and friend Kathy Patterson (pictured below, l-r) of Spring Woods Farm in Hillsborough show off Nigerian Dwarf Dairy goats Catalina, Earl and Joy, who were born on April 3. The kids join a family that includes two other goats, Frida and Diego, and an assortment of dogs and cats. Colleen and her husband, Frank Mangieri, recently purchased a house in Chatham County to accommodate their growing family. To celebrate, they threw a party and played the parts of farmer parents, outfitted in overalls with straw in their pockets and buttons that said "we love our twins." Goats, that is.



Generator Installed — In the ice storm of 2002, some employees answered telephones wearing warm hats and mittens when electrical power was out at Town Hall. If the situation repeats itself, the building will be better prepared since outfitted this spring with a new generator.

The diesel-powered generator will provide power to the south wing of Town Hall during an electrical outage. The project cost was \$66,000 for equipment and installation. Its main purpose will be to ensure the Town's ability to provide services and information to citizens in the event of an outage. For this reason, the generator was installed to protect technology and telephone equipment located on the building's south side.

Employees involved: **Susie Whaley, Traval Watkins, Roger Mills, James Garrett, Sam Rone, Scott Hanshaw, Steve Degraffenried, Tim Smith, Mike West, Shelton Burnette, Charles Mitchell, Warren Edwards, Kenneth Jones, Hector Grande, Audrey Gattis, Wayne Thompson, Rickey McKinney, Ernie Rivera, Anthony Nance, Phillip Jones, Robert Ruley, Mark Schrader, John Sorenson, Bob Ziemendorf, Mike Davis, Bob Avery, Arek Kempinski and Van Bennet.**



TOWNtalk is produced by the Town Information Office:

Information Officer: Catherine Lazorko
Communications Specialist: Melanie Miller
tio@townofchapelhill.org or 968-2893

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.



Published by:
Town of Chapel Hill
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Employee Forum



The Employee Forum conducted a random drawing on April 13 to select 10 employees to receive a computer to use at home for one year. Many employees participated in the lottery. The IT department provided the recycled computers with clean hard drives and Windows operating system.

The winners are **Val Gibson** (Transit), **Gerry Boone** (Fire), **Ed Larson** (Library), **Tracy Dudley** (Parking), **Rodolfo Crooks** (Transit), **William Rider** (Transit), **Doug Clark** (Transit), **Robert Moore** (Transit), **Jeff Clark** (Police), **Kecia Hargraves** (Transit).

The Council is moving into high gear with its budget deliberations. On April 24, the Council received the Manager's recommended budget. By now they have heard from the Manager and many Department Heads regarding Town projects. The Council also has heard from a number of local agencies asking for new or continued funding. The Forum encourages you to learn about this process. On May 10 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber, the Council will hold its final budget Public Hearing, and the budget for the coming year will be adopted on June 26.

— Wendy Walsh, Human Resources

Recycling

Earth Action Fest

Earth Action Fest, our local Earth Day celebration, is April 30. Information: www.earthactionfest.org or 960-6886.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., sign up to clean a stream or advocate for bikeways and sidewalks. Look for the Town Stormwater Booth at Carrboro Town Commons.

At 2 p.m., there will be a parade from Weaver Street Market to Carrboro Town Commons. From 2:30 to 6 p.m. at Carrboro Town Commons, learn how to "Reduce Your Ecological Footprint" while eating local food, listening to music and generally celebrating the earth.

— Blair Pollock, Orange Community Recycling

Town Celebrates Public Works Week

The Public Works Department's 120 employees will celebrate National Public Works Week, May 21-27. Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association (APWA) in 1960, the weeklong observance calls attention to the importance of public works in community life.

On Friday, May 26, the department will host a lunchtime cookout in recognition of their valuable employees and services that they provide to the community.

Public Works includes the Administration Division; Sustainability and Facilities Management Division; Streets and Construction Services Division; and Solid Waste and Fleet Services Division.

The department employees take a great deal of pride in the services they provide to the community. They are proud that they are providing leadership relative to best management and environmentally friendly methods of providing services to the community and support to other departments.

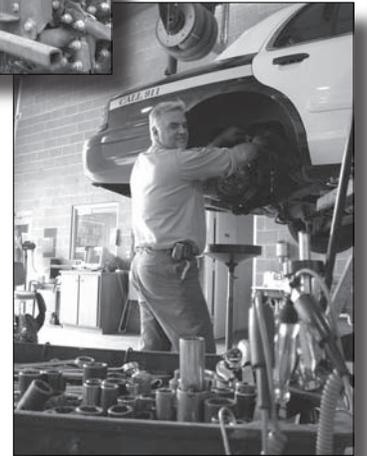
Services provided by the department include maintenance and improvement, local public streets, drainage infrastructure, sidewalks, buildings, grounds, vehicles and equipment, and solid waste collection.



Anthony Craven, Lorenzo Vanhook, and James Upchurch (Landscape) work to fill a median along Raleigh Road.



Steve Degraffenried (Landscape) aerates a playing field in north Chapel Hill.



Phil Williams (Internal Services) replaces a broken brake line in a police vehicle.



Kenneth Marsh (Sanitation) handles yard waste disposal at a local residence.

Training Opportunities for Town Employees

The Office of Training and Development of the Human Resources Department is pleased to offer training opportunities for all Town employees. Topics include Cultural Diversity, Cultural Awareness, Financial Management, Smoking Cessation, Fundamentals of Supervision, Aqua Fitness, and Diabetes Awareness.

To register for classes, contact Lisa Edwards, Training and Development Coordinator at 968-2888 ext. 322 or ledwards@townofchapelhill.org.



EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

Resolving Conflicts at Work
Instructor: Polly Weiss
May 9, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
June 13, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Fundamental Supervision Skills
Instructor: Polly Weiss

Part I: Intentional communication, giving feedback, and creating accountability
May 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Part II: Delegation, coaching, and teamwork
May 25, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

ADULT WATER FITNESS

Deep Water Aerobics
April 4 - May 11
Tuesday and Thursday, 9 - 9:55 a.m.
Activity #: 250322B
\$60 resident, \$72 non-resident
(Drop-in Fee of \$6)

Aqua-Aerobics Class
March 27 – May 10 (No class April 14)
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
9 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.
Activity #: 250321B
\$77 resident, \$91 non-resident
(Drop-in Fee of \$6)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Diabetes Awareness
Instructor: Ronald Aiken,
Public Works Department
May 17, 10 – 11 a.m.

Freedom From Smoking
Instructor: Molly Brennan, MPH
May 4 – June 22 (no class May 18)
Thursdays 1 - 2 p.m.
\$15 commitment fee (refundable after 100% completion of the program)

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Cultural Diversity
Instructor: Pat Callair, MSW, M. Ed.
May 24 and June 14, 9 a.m. to noon

How to Improve Customer Service to Diverse Clients
Instructor: Henry Meguid, Ph.D.
May 16 and June 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Making More of Your Credit
Instructor: Local Government Credit Union
May 10, 10 a.m. – noon

Buying a Home – Explore Your Options
Instructor: Local Government Credit Union
June 7, 10 -11 a.m.

