

TOWNtalk

April 2006
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A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report



By Cal Horton,
Town Manager

The Town Council received our preliminary report on the 2006-07 budget on March 22. The final budget recommendation will be presented on April 24 and the Council's budget hearing will be held on May 10. The Council expects to consider adoption of a final budget on June 26.

As is the case with all budgets, there are more needs and wants this year than dollars. However, the budget picture for 2006-07 is better than the one we were looking at last year at this time. Sales tax revenues have been much better than originally expected. Property tax revenues also are higher than budgeted. The department heads, with your help, have done a good job of controlling expenditures.

Our preliminary report recommends a number of additions to the base budget, including: compensation increases for Town employees; additional police officers to work in the downtown; additional firefighters to improve emergency response; another traffic signal technician (paid for mainly with state funds); and a children's librarian. We also have made provisions for additional fuel costs and utility charges resulting from the move to the new Town Operations Center. Details of the preliminary report are available on the Town's web site and through print copies at the Clerk's Office and Library. Department heads also will be glad to provide a copy to anyone who is interested.

We will continue to refine our revenue and cost estimates for next year until the deadline for making our final recommendations. There still is much work to do. Stay tuned.

Lauren Radson

Joined Town: September 2003

Department: Parks and Recreation

Duties: As the Lead Community Celebrations Specialist, Lauren is busy making plans for Apple Chill on April 23. She is responsible for overall planning of Town events, including budgets, staffing, operations, vendor communications, and public relations. Every day is different, depending on what events are happening. Her work could involve attending meetings with other Town departments, including Police, Fire, Public Works, and Parking, and working with them to make events run smoothly. Lauren also plans employee appreciation events. In addition, Lauren oversees the Teen Center, where she trains and coordinates staff and manages the budget.

Personal: Lauren is engaged to Scott Tillman, who is a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at NC State University. They plan to be married in June 2007 on Amelia Island in Florida, which was her favorite vacation spot when she was growing up in Florida.

Lauren has a one-year-old lab, Emma, who is full of energy and keeps her active. Emma shares the house with Nick, a three-legged kitty. Some day, Lauren hopes to

In the Spotlight



have more animals, especially cows and goats.

Lauren likes being outdoors—camping, hiking, or rock climbing. Her favorite place is Pisgah National Forest. She spent three months in Hawaii working as an environmental educator, and environmental issues are important to her. She volunteers with the NC Conservation Agency.

Quote: "Excellence is not a skill. It's an attitude."

Philosophy: Become the change you seek in the world.

COMING UP:

April 14: Town Holiday

* Parks and Recreation will offer a free swim at the Community Center on April 14 in honor of Thomas Jefferson's Birthday.

April 17: Income Taxes are due

April 23: Apple Chill Street Fair

April 26: Administrative Professionals Day



In Brief

Pam Eastwood (Human Resources) was honored with the WCHL Village Pride Award on March 16. WCHL presents the award to community members who help make life better for others. Eastwood accepted the award on behalf of all members of the Human Resources staff who work as a team to get things done.

Anissa Graham-Davis (Human Resources) graduated from the Municipal Administration Course at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government.

Stacey Graves has been promoted from Master Firefighter to Fire Equipment Operator.

Byron Greeson has been promoted from Fire Equipment Operator to Fire Captain.

The Chapel Hill Police Department and the state Attorney General's Office organized a Shred-A-Thon on March 15. Shredding bank statements, bills, and pre-approved credit card offers helps protect us from having our Social Security numbers, account numbers or other information stolen by identity thieves. The identities of about 300,000 North Carolinians are stolen each year. **Ted Hobgood** and **Danny Lloyd** (pictured below) participated in this effort to deter identity thieves.



Stormwater Management enlisted Town employees to become actors for a day as they played the parts for a radio announcement to inform citizens of ways to prevent water pollution. Pictured above are **Ted Hobgood** (left, aka "A tough-talking storm drain"), **Kay Johnson** (center back, aka "The tagline"), and **Phil Mason** (right, aka "newly enlightened homeowner") with **Christy Dixon** (front) of WCHL-1360. As part of its public outreach, volunteers from the community and Stormwater staff will be placing storm drain markers on storm drain hoods in the coming weeks and distributing door hangers to residents and businesses, giving tips for preventing water pollution.

Free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers from UNC-Chapel Hill will be offered at Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberson St., through April 12. Those interested should bring copies of all W-2 and 1089 forms and the amount of other income received by themselves and their spouses, as well as a valid picture I.D. and other special case tax information. Sessions are offered from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. To set up an appointment, call 1-800-807-6349.

Chapel Hill Transit

buses now display plaques honoring Rosa Parks, Claudette

Colvin, and Mary Louise Smith. These three women were arrested, charged, jailed and fined for refusing to give up their seats on a city bus and stand so white riders could sit. Colvin and Smith were the plaintiffs in the 1956 court case that ended segregation on buses in Montgomery, Ala.



We relied upon **Public Works** for a quick diagnosis and remedy when the heating and cooling system failed at Town Hall last month. A contractor used a crane to remove a malfunctioning compressor in the air conditioning system.



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Employee Forum



At our March meeting, the Employee Forum discussed issues including improvement of the tuition reimbursement benefit, employee recognition, and an employee discount program that may benefit employees as well as the community.

The Council is well into budget discussions and will hold a Budget Forum and Hearing on Wednesday, May 10. These meetings are designed for the Council to hear anyone's thoughts or concerns regarding the budget. We invite you to participate in this process.

The Employee Forum meets on the second Thursday of the month. If you have issues, concerns or questions that you would like to be addressed during these meetings, please bring them to your representative. We want to know what's on your mind.

— Wendy Walsh (Human Resources)

Need a Computer?

Employees now have the opportunity to bid for surplus Town computers on www.govdeals.com. They are being sold as full sets, including monitor, keyboard, speakers, mouse, and CPU, with bids starting at \$20.

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 by April 10 to be included in a lottery drawing.

Managing Finances

The Human Resources Department will present "Managing Your Finances," a class to help you understand how to manage your money, from basic budgeting to managing your finances. The class will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on April 11. To register, please contact Lisa Edwards at ledwards@townofchapelhill.org.



Airport Road Signs For Sale

In response to requests from the community, the Town is selling its old Airport Road signs. On May 8, 2005, the Chapel Hill Town Council renamed Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A total of 20 signs will be sold. To bid, go to www.govdeals.com, click on "Advanced Search," and under "Seller Name," select "Chapel Hill."

Compliments



Dear Officer Jim Orbich and Baila (the dog):

Thanks so much for coming to our Pack meeting last week to show us how smart and talented the members of the K-9 unit are!

One young Cub was overheard exclaiming, "I'll never forget this for a thousand years!"

The Cub Scouts of Pack 845 and their families were really impressed with the demonstration of skill and control shown by the dogs and their handlers.

Cub Scout
Pack 845 Leaders



Recycling



Annual Compost Bin Sale

Orange County will sell outdoor composting bins for \$39 at the Eubanks Road Park and Ride Lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 1, or while supplies last.

Safety Sense

Hazardous Communication

We encounter chemicals every day – filling our vehicles with gas, cleaning our houses, gardening with pesticides or insecticides, and using solvents or acids at work. Up to 30 million workers are exposed to 650,000 chemicals annually. About 20,000 annual incidents of exposure result in lost workdays. If you are unsure of a chemical or substance in the workplace, make sure to:

- Identify hazards before starting a job.
- Read the chemical label and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).
- Follow warnings and instructions, and ask your supervisor if in doubt.
- Use the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Participate in safety training.
- Practice sensible, safe work habits.
- Handle chemicals carefully and safely.
- Know what to do in case of an emergency.
- Do not use chemical containers that are not labeled.
- Alert trained responders for spill clean up.

Understand the chemicals in your workplace.

— Julie Waller (Human Resources)

April is for Apple Chill!

On April 23, the Chapel Hill community will come together for Apple Chill. It's an opportunity for people of all ages and all cultures to enjoy the best that Chapel Hill has to offer. There's something for everyone, including a variety of musical entertainment, arts and crafts, non-profit groups, international foods and an exciting motorcycle show.

From 1 to 6 p.m., Franklin Street will be closed from Graham to Henderson Streets to make room for up to 60,000 people who are expected to attend this year's festival.

Local artists will be displaying their arts and crafts. A variety of entertainers will be showcased on six stages.

Twenty musical groups will perform, with dance and music including blues, rock, jazz, folk, reggae, gospel, rap, and bluegrass

In addition to the usual festival fare of ice cream, cotton candy, and funnel cakes, vendors will offer food from different cultures, including Mexican, Greek, Cajun, and Caribbean, along with Maryland crab cakes and fancy fritters. A new stage has been added at the main

food service area, so diners can enjoy entertainment while they eat.

The motorcycle show on West Franklin will display 500 bikes. Other vehicles will be on display, including a fire truck, Chapel Hill Transit bus, and police vehicles.

In the Kid Zone, children will enjoy games, inflatable amusements, face painting, sand art, a climbing wall, and more.

Non-profit groups will have the opportunity to tell the public about their organizations. Thirty-nine non-profits will participate in Apple Chill. They will provide activities for children, including sidewalk chalk art with the Ackland Art Museum and science based activities with the Morehead Planetarium. The Orange County Animal Shelter will offer games for children.

Children also will learn about fire safety in the Safety House, a mini house that teaches them how to exit safely in case of a fire.



Celebrate Spring

Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department, along with Carrboro and Orange County parks and recreation departments, will sponsor a spring celebration from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 8, at Anderson Park in Carrboro. The celebration is for children ages 2-10 years. Free activities include egg hunts, live children's entertainment, games and prizes. The communities partner to host the annual event. The photo at left captures the excitement from a past event held outside the Carolina Inn.