



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report



By Cal Horton,
Town Manager

Earlier this week I informed the Council that I will retire effective September 1, 2006. I have worked in various capacities for state and local governments since 1965. Now I am ready to have more time for my family and personal interests.

It has been a privilege to have been associated with you, first as Public Safety Director and then as Town Manager. Your regular work sets an excellent standard of performance that is envied by many other communities. Your emergency and special events work is unequaled.

In the months ahead, I will continue to focus on assisting the Council in attaining its objectives; and I will work diligently to facilitate the best possible transition to the leadership of a new Manager. That person will need your full support, and I know you will give it.

Thank you for good work and good memories. I appreciate both.

Anthony and Camelia Brooks

In the Spotlight

Joined Town: Anthony: June 1985
Camelia: May 1987

Department: Anthony: Police
Camelia: Human Resources

Duties:
Anthony has worked for the Town for 20 years, and has seen many changes over the years under four different police chiefs. He was the first school resource officer at Chapel Hill High School in 1994, and he developed relationships with many of the students, who still remember him today. Since then he has been assigned to community policing in the Northside neighborhood, then the 100 block of Franklin Street, and he is currently on patrol. An artist depicted him in action in the hall mural in the Bank of America building.

Camelia began working at Town Hall as the secretary/receptionist for Human Resources, answering calls and taking applications. She now is the Benefits Advisor, helping people understand and access their benefits and resolve issues. In December, she completed an 11-week course to earn a Certificate in Human Resource Management.

Personal:
High school sweethearts, Anthony and Camelia have been married for 20 years. Their daughter, Ashley, is a sophomore at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina and a point guard for the Cobras. During



basketball season, they spend at least three days of every week on the road, traveling to South Carolina to watch her play.

When they're not working or traveling, Camelia likes to spend time with her daughter, sister, mother, and mother-in-law, doing "girl stuff," reading, or watching plays, and Anthony enjoys riding his motorcycle and bowling.

Quote:
You can take from every experience what it has to offer you. And you cannot be defeated if you just keep taking one breath followed by another.

Philosophy:
Family first. And hooray for free Verizon minutes!

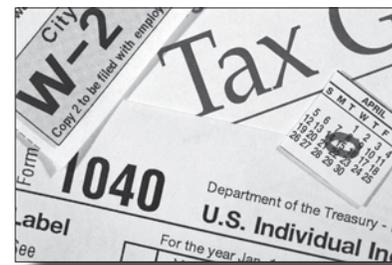
COMING UP:

Tax time! It's that time of year again! W2 forms have been mailed. If you haven't received yours, contact Finance.

Flags will be flying on Feb. 20 for President's Day (not a Town holiday)

Budget Hearings & Forums

The following meetings on the Town Budget are scheduled at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Town Hall:
March 22 and May 10.



Human Resources

NEW EMPLOYEES

- **Gardner Treneman** (Library),
Library Assistant
- **Kai Monast** (Planning), Planner
- **Lauren Draughon** (Engineering),
Accounting Technician
- **Ray Gornto** (Engineering),
Traffic Signal Technician
- **Woody Meadows** (Engineering),
Traffic Program Supervisor

LIFE CHANGES?

Please don't forget to notify Human Resources if you have any changes in life status such as marriage, divorce or changes to beneficiaries, or address changes. You must complete change forms for health insurance, dental insurance, NC 401(k) and the Retirement System.

Recycling

Last year, we recycled 400 tons of plastic bottles but landfilled more than 1,600 tons in Orange County. Let's reverse that ratio. The recycling industry can't get enough recycled plastic to make new bottles, carpet, flower pots and all the other products they make from old bottles; instead, they're using oil and gas.

Orange Community Recycling's new campaign promotes plastic bottle recycling. We have partnered with the American Plastics Council and the following grocery stores: Harris Teeter, Weaver Street Market, Whole Foods and Earth Fare. So save landfill space and petroleum resources and help create new products from old bottles. Remember, a bottle has a neck smaller than its base. No tubs or cups please.

— Blair Pollock (Orange Community Recycling)



TOWNtalk is produced by the Town Information Office:

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Construction Crew — The Public Works Construction Division, led by **Shelton Burnette**, has been busy around Chapel Hill building sidewalks, recently completing a 1,070-foot stretch along the west side of Kingston Drive. Pictured here are employee crew members (L-R) back row: **Kenneth Marsh, Wayne Thompson, Warren Edwards** (hiding behind Anthony), **Ricky McKinney and Kenneth Jones**; (L-R) middle row: **Anthony Nance, Charles Mitchell and Audrey Gattis**; (L-R) front row: **Ernie Rivera, Phillip Jones and Hector Grande**.

Employee Forum

The Employee Forum, an advisory committee to the Town Manager, currently is discussing the following topics and proposals:

Benefits: Discussing employee benefits programs; a proposal to increase the tuition reimbursement amount.

Education: An orientation guide for new Forum members and employees; new educational opportunities.

Communication: Employee recognition, a computer loan program, diversity, open communication with higher levels of management, notifying employees of Forum activities.

Policy: Reviewing policies, including the adverse weather policy.

The Employee Forum has elected new officers: Jackie Thompson, Chair, Amy Harvey, Vice Chair, and Karen Patillo, Secretary.



Chapel Hill Police Officer **Tom Mitchell**, who patrols downtown Chapel Hill, shows off his bike safety gear, including a blinking headlight, reflective jacket, helmet, and rear light. State law requires bicyclists to equip their bicycles with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector visible from a distance of 200 feet when riding at night.

WELCOME

Stop by the Manager's Office and say "hello" to **Melanie Miller**, who is assisting with the production of your newsletter **TOWNtalk**:
mmiller@townofchapelhill.org.

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Safety Sense

COMPUTER WORKSTATION ERGONOMICS

When you're working at your computer, is the top of the monitor at or just below eye level? As you sit in your chair, is your lower back supported and do your feet rest flat on the floor? These are some of the things to consider when you look at the ergonomics of your work environment.

Ergonomics is the study of designing and arranging your work environment to best support your performance. Making small changes in your work space can often improve your comfort and reduce the possibility of an injury.

If you'd like to see an evaluation checklist to help you create a safe and comfortable computer workstation, go to: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/computerworkstations/index.html>. This site provides a checklist to help you evaluate your workstation.

Being aware of ergonomic factors and making changes to accommodate your unique work situation, will go a long way to creating a comfortable injury-free environment.

—Julie Waller (Human Resources)

Black History Month

The Town is observing Black History Month in a variety of ways. The St. Paul AME Church Male Choir, led by Angela Lee, opened the



Feb. 13 Town Council meeting with "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (see photo above).

An exhibit at Town Hall documents the history of Chapel Hill's black community with memorabilia, including old photographs, newspaper clippings, and other materials.

Many of the items are from Lincoln High School, the local high school for black students in the years before integration. Prom photos, class portraits, school newspapers, and report cards document the school's important role in the community from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Many of the items were gathered by Esther McCauley, president of the Lincoln High School Alumni Association. "My mother had five children," said McCauley. "She was proud of us, and she saved everything: report cards, school newspapers, homework, all kinds of things."

Other images in the show depict church choirs, local businesses, and events, including civil rights demonstrations.

The exhibit will be on display at Town Hall through March 17.



Lincoln High School Class of 1952

Public Works Improves Ice Control with Brine



Mark Shrader (Public Works), pictured above, demonstrates the brine mixing process, which involves combining rock salt and water in a stainless steel mixing tank, running this mixture through a 3,000 gallon holding tank and then back through the mixing tank until the mixture reaches a 23 percent salt solution level. The brine then is pumped to a storage tank from where it is distributed to two 1,000 gallon application tanks mounted on trucks (photo at right).

Public Works crews haven't yet implemented their new secret weapon — brine, a snow and ice control program that utilizes a new approach to keeping the roads clear. However, they're ready if the cold snap this month brings any snow or ice.

Acquired this season for about \$47,000, the system produces a salt and water solution (brine) in a concentration of 23 percent salt to water. The Town has installed a mixing tank and a 3,000-gallon holding tank. The brine solution produced here will be available to the Town of Carrboro, Orange County Public Works and the University of North Carolina.

Brine can be applied to road surfaces as many as three days before a snow or icing event. The brine solution is sprayed onto the roadway. The liquid dries, leaving a bonded strip of fine salt on the pavement. When the snow begins falling, the moisture activates the salt and helps prevent a snow-ice-pavement bond. Brine works as a pre-

treatment to prevent ice from forming and/or bonding to roads.

The Town uses three treatment methods when addressing snow accumulation. Brine is used as an anti-icing agent and rock salt is used as a deicing agent. While rock salt is used as a deicer, it is not as cost effective or environmentally friendly as brine for pre-treatment. A combination of salt and sand is used at times for deicing and skid control. Finally, snow plowing equipment is used to remove any significant accumulations.



The Secret to Award-Winning Chili



When the final act appeared at last month's Chili Cook Off and Talent Show, the crowd was getting restless and ready to scatter back to their jobs. That was before the Transit Trio edged into "Ain't No Sunshine" and brought the house down at the Hargraves Center. Employees stomped their feet, whistling and pleading for more from Daniel Hart on electric violin, Lafayette Poteat on drums and Audrey Council on bass.

Before this, the audience was treated to folk/rock songs from Dave Almond (Engineering). The Public Works twin duo of Jerry Battle and Terry Battle played "Like a Rock" by Bob Seeger and "He's Not Heavy, He's My Brother" by The Hollies: "If I'm laden at all, I'm laden with sadness that everyone's heart isn't filled with the gladness of love for one another."

Thanks to all who cooked chili for us to sample and share: Jackie Thompson (Housing), Wes Tilghman (Parks and Recreation), Jeff Clark (Police), Jeff Freer (Transit), Bill Rehm (IT), Meeghan Rosen (Library), Janice Dareff (Library), Rae Buckley (Planning), George Small (Engineering), Sam Jones (Transit), Susie Whaley (Public Works), Tim Smith (Public Works) and Bob Godding (Manager's Office). Because of the high quality of the submissions, the judging was made quite difficult and many of us had to return for second and third samples!

The winners of the Chili Cook Off were:

- Best Beef: #3, Tim Smith (Public Works)
- Best Vegetarian: #2, George Small and daughter (Engineering)
- Best Spicy: #9, Sam Jones (Transportation)
- Best Overall: #3, Tim Smith

Tim Smith said of his winning chili:

"My secret was the use of multi-color beans along with smoked chuck with just a hint of molasses. Oh yeah, and one must use 'Fiesta' Chili powder. Beyond this I can not divulge all ingredients because of an old family curse."

Maybe it was the heat of the chili that brought folks closer, but many agreed that this employee event, planned by Lauren Radson (Parks and Recreation) was the most enjoyable to date. If you didn't get the chance to come, don't miss the next Employee Appreciation Event: Smoothie Scoop Day on May 19 at the Community Center.



CARE TO AUDITION?

The Employee Appreciation Day proved what talent lies within so many of our Town employees! If you want to lend your voice to a 60-second radio play starring a clueless homeowner and a tough-talking storm drain, consider trying out. Tryouts will be conducted from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 2-3. Call Wendy Smith at 969-7246 or e-mail her to schedule.

