



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

December 2005
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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report



By Cal Horton,
Town Manager

Although many of us will have a few days off for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, other Town employees will continue to provide services. Fire and police services will continue every day without interruption, of course. The safety and emergency services provided by the public works staff will continue, also: traffic signals must be repaired promptly, trees that fall in the streets must be removed, and heating systems must be maintained in operation, and so on. The housing staff will continue to provide around-the-clock emergency services to the residents of 338 public housing apartments.

Employees who work during the holidays take their days off at other times, but it's not the same as being home with family or going to visit relatives and friends. I recently attended a retirement party for Police Major Tony Oakley who lamented that he never got to take his now-grown daughter trick-or-treating on Halloween because he always was on duty on Halloween night. Other Town employees who have missed a holiday event or family celebration because they were at work can sympathize.

So, if you're one of the fortunate who will be enjoying time with your family this holiday season, take a moment to think about our friends and colleagues who will be at work, and say "Thank you" when you get a chance.

Scott Beavers

Revenue Collector

Joined Town: August 2005
Department: Finance

Duties: People paying their bills at Town Hall always receive a friendly smile and cheerful service from Scott Beavers, who assists his division with accounts receivables, business licenses and tax payments. He is often the first point of contact for citizens who are seeking services, and he does all he can to assist them. He plans to take classes to improve his already excellent Spanish.

Personal: Born in Norman, Okla., Scott moved to Minneapolis to attend the University of Minnesota, where he majored in theatre arts with a minor in cellular and molecular biology. "The minor was my 'something-to-fall-back-on,'" he explains. Theatre is his first love, and he has held numerous positions in sales, marketing and management at non-profits and arts organizations. He is starting his own theatre company named Vox Frontera ("Border

In the Spotlight



A couple of Scott's holiday traditions are listening to "A Child's Christmas in Wales" and lighting a Yule-log.

Voices") to tell the stories of people who are marginalized in contemporary society. He practices yoga (favorite poses: child, tree and cobra) and pilates, and occasionally tutors in mathematics.

Quote: "I'm a people person," he admits. "I love my job and the people I work with."

COMING UP



Holiday Breakfast - 9 a.m. Dec. 16, HR Training Room
Chapel Hill Transit's Christmas Dinner - 10 a.m. Dec. 15
Town Winter Holidays - Dec. 22-23, Dec. 26, Jan. 2
Chili Cook-Off & Talent Show - Jan. 27

Holiday Breakfast — Bring a treat to share and join your fellow employees at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in the HR Training Room of Town Hall for the Annual Holiday Breakfast. Are your kids interested in tracking Santa's worldwide travels on Christmas Eve? Help them to check www.noradsanta.org.

In Brief



Sandy Cook (Clerk's Office) has been accepted into the Entry Level Membership of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). The

Academy has four levels, and Cook hopes to attain her Master Municipal Clerk's designation in four years. She received the IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk's Certification in March 2004. To attain her Certified Municipal Clerk certification she attended IIMC approved educational programs conducted by the Institute of Government at UNC and has completed other seminars and conferences related to local government.

Hector Grande and **Wayne Harris** were recognized by the Public Works Department for outstanding employee performance. Grande, who works in Field Operations, was named Employee of the Month for September 2005. Harris, who works in Landscape, was named Employee of the Month for October 2005. Congratulations!

Fifty command officers and mid-level supervisors from the four major public safety providers in southern Orange County met for dinner on Dec. 7 at the Southern Human Services Center. The purpose of the gathering was to enhance what is already a very strong bond among field supervisors and command officials of the Chapel Hill and UNC police departments, the Chapel Hill Fire Department and Orange County Emergency Management. The four departments plan to continue these joint sessions throughout the year in areas such as planning and training to ensure that the citizens of southern Orange County receive the highest quality of service in times of emergencies.



Holiday Sharing - Town employees enjoyed a Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. 18 that featured Cap Mellon's sweet potato casserole, George Small's perennial Jell-O surprise, Tanita Howard's barbecued meatballs, and Kay Tapp's stuffing. There was plenty to go around! Joyous holiday wishes to all employees!

Sabrina Oliver (Clerk's Office) and **Arek Kempinski** (Information Technology), pictured below, graduated in December from the Leadership Chapel Hill-Carrboro program. The program encourages participants to explore the social, cultural, political and economic facets of the community. Leadership participants complete the Leadership "Passport," an agenda of community projects and exercises as well as the Small Miracles® project, which pairs students with area non-profit organizations to learn about their missions and needs.



Major Tony Oakley (Police) retired in December after 23 years with the Town. Last year, he retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves, which he served for 30

years. Oakley has received the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service Medal and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.



Wendy Walsh (Human Resources) passed a challenging examination in December that leads to her certification as a Senior Professional in Human

Resources (SPHR) as recognized by the Society for Human Resources Management.



Editing and Layout: Catherine Lazorko
Proofreaders: Carol Abernethy and Ted Hobgord
Contact: clazorko@townofchapelhill.org
919/968-2893

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Chapel Hill Honors Rosa Parks

Chapel Hill Transit helped to pay tribute to Rosa Parks and the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott on Dec. 1 by providing buses for a special event co-sponsored by the Town Council. Participants took a bus ride along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the U.S. Post Office on Franklin Street, where a rally was held.



Rosa Parks died at 92 at her home in Detroit on Oct. 24. The woman known as the “mother of the civil rights movement,” turned the course of American history by refusing in 1955 to give up her seat on a bus for a white man. Parks was arrested on Dec. 1, 1955, for the act.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a year-long protest in Montgomery, Alabama, that galvanized the American Civil Rights Movement and led to a 1956 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that declared segregated seating on buses unconstitutional.

NEWS FROM HR

Employees who wish to participate in the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Program must submit their completed paperwork to the Human Resources Department by Dec. 16.

The program will be administered by J. Smith Lanier & Co. for the new plan year beginning Jan. 1, 2006. The program this year offers a new Flex Convenience card that allows you to directly pay for your eligible FSA expenses at the point of service. This avoids the traditional hassles of an FSA such as paying cash for services, filling out and submitting a claim form, and waiting for a reimbursement check.

Flexible spending accounts are available for medical and dependent care needs via payroll deductions on a pretax basis. The FSA allows you to set aside money to pay for items such as health insurance copays, uninsured treatments (for example, vision care) or even over-the-counter drug purchases.

THINK

SAFETY...

WORK SAFELY

Bloodborne Pathogens By Ron Aiken (Public Works)

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms such as viruses or bacteria that are carried in blood or other body fluids and can cause disease in people. There are many different bloodborne pathogens including malaria, syphilis, Hepatitis B (HBV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

How can you avoid exposure to bloodborne pathogens? A simple concept – universal precautions. This means that workers are asked to treat all blood and other potentially infectious body fluids as if they are infected. Protective clothing acts as a barrier between employees and direct contact with hazardous materials (in this case, bloodborne pathogens). Gloves are the most common form of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to prevent exposure. Depending on their jobs, employees may also be provided with masks, goggles or glasses with solid side shields. Other PPE may also include gowns, aprons, or other clothing, surgical caps or hoods, and even shoe covers.

Employee Forum



New Nominees to Employee Forum

New employee representatives were nominated to the Employee Forum in November, and outgoing members received thanks and praise for their service. Nominees to the Employee Forum include:

- **Keith Gaudette** (Fire)
- **Jackie Thompson** (Housing)
- **Ken McDouall** (Library)
- **Joshua Jonaissant** with **Michael Troutman** (Parks and Recreation)
- **Karen Rose** and **Bryan Walker** (Police)
- **Kay McDaniel** and **Karen Patillo** (Public Works)
- **Wallace Alston** and **Annie Edwards** (Transportation)

The Employee Forum is an advisory committee to the Town Manager. Visit <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org>.

TOWN AUCTION

The Town now lists surplus vehicles and equipment for sale on an online auction site – www.GovDeals.com. To view the Town's surplus vehicles and equipment, select the Town of Chapel Hill as the seller. New surplus will be added for auction as it becomes available, so it is advisable to check periodically for new items. In addition, the Town will auction unclaimed property including bicycles and vehicles at www.PropertyRoom.com beginning Jan. 3. Information: Coco Hall at 919/968-2888 ext. 334 or chall@townofchapelhill.org.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Our next Employee Appreciation Event is a Chili Cook-Off & Talent Show on Jan. 27. The cook-off begins at 12:30 p.m. at Hargraves Center with a Talent Show to follow at 1 p.m. in the North Side Gym. To participate and for more information, contact Lauren Radson at 968-2787 ext. 211 by Jan. 13.



Employees honored for longevity,



Our December mornings have been made a bit warmer with events that recognize Town employees. A breakfast was held on Dec. 2 at Hargraves Center to honor employees with 20 or more years, and Town Manager Cal Horton paid special tribute to (far left photo, l-r:

Nate Davis (Parks & Recreation), Flora Parrish (Police), Dayle Gibson (Public Works) and Jane Dyer (Library), all with more than 30 years. Seated at the table are (l to r) James Jones, Joe Farrington and Lloyd Ross (Public Works).

for years of service ...



Employees who have reached service year milestones were recognized on Dec. 9. A few featured in photographs, left to right, are Bobby Pettiford (Inspections), who won the flower bouquet for his wife; Anita Hackney (Transportation), and Travis Parker (Transportation) with Town Manager Horton, who jokingly remarked that Parker resembles Barry White.

and for getting the job done.

A little "sugar and spice" was served to all employees who deal directly with the public at an Employee Appreciation event held at Public Works on Dec. 9. Employees

photographed left to right are Diana Harris (Fire), Andrea Judge (Parks and Recreation) and seated at the table are Tony Barnett, Jim Upchurch and Scott Hanshaw (Public Works).

