



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

October 2005
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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report



BY CAL HORTON, Town Manager

The pay raises authorized by the Town Council take effect this month. Pay step increases for employees below the job rate and merit increases for employees above the job rate will provide an average increase of 3.78 percent. The Council also authorized payment of increased costs for medical insurance and workers' compensation insurance.

Your work has earned the Council's respect. It is your record of excellent public service that they consider when making difficult budget decisions. This year, the Council raised the tax rate in order to continue the valuable public services that you provide.

Among other things, you operate the most successful bus system in North Carolina, the best public library in the state, and the finest public housing. Your work has made it possible for the Town to be one of only 30 cities having a population of 50,000 or greater to have a AAA bond rating. Overall, a recent poll conducted by *The News and Observer* shows that Chapel Hillians are more satisfied with their services than any other place in the Triangle area.

That's a lot to be proud of; and, I congratulate you for it.

COMING UP

Lunch & Learn: "Make Your 401(k) work for you" - 12:30 - 1 p.m. Oct. 17, Public Works Sanitation Conf. Room, Individual Appts. 1-3 p.m. (call Donna at 968-2700)

Combined Campaign - Pledge cards due to department reps at end of month

Fall Carnival - 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 28, Hargraves Center (info: 968-2794)

Daylight Savings Ends - Oct. 30

Halloween - Oct. 31

Jerry & Terry Battle

Joined Town:

Jerry in 1986;
Terry in 1985

Department:

Public Works
(Jerry is a Traffic Technician;
Terry is a Landscape Supervisor)

Duties: Jerry's three-person crew designs, fabricates and installs all sorts of signs. They also apply pavement markings. A highlight of his work was designing the double-decker "Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd." signs, the largest of which measured eight feet

in length. Terry supervises a crew of seven to 18 employees. His group maintains the landscaping of all public housing, Town cemeteries and the major roads entering Chapel Hill.

Personal: The identical twins were born and reared in Orange County. They may tell you that they were born in the month of June (Gemini), but they will not reveal who is older. Both attended Chapel Hill High School, and Terry graduated from Durham Technical Academy as an auto mechanic. Today, Terry lives in Durham with his wife Denise, while Jerry lives in Carrboro with his wife

In the Spotlight



Twins and Best Friends - (L-R) Jerry and Terry Battle see or talk to each other every day. Even when they don't dress alike, people often mistake them for each other.

Allison. What few personal differences exist between them can be attributed to their wives, says Jerry. Jerry's pastime is a computer repair business, while his brother closely follows the stock market. They are conscientious about staying fit and trim. Terry is recovering this month from neck surgery. Get well soon, Terry!

"I wish that all other siblings would have as close a relationship as we," Jerry said. "It's great to have somebody who understands you so well. We started out together, and we'll be there for each other always."

Town Staff Prepare for Halloween



Once again downtown Chapel Hill will be the focal point of Halloween festivities.

In previous years the crowd has been as large as 75,000. Streets will close at 9 p.m. on Oct. 31. The closed area will be Franklin Street from Raleigh Street to Mallette Street; Columbia Street from Cameron Avenue to Rosemary Street; and Raleigh Street from Cameron Avenue to East Franklin Street.

In Brief

Fire Chief **Dan Jones** was invited to take part in an international fire symposium this month. The United States-United Kingdom Fire Symposium allowed fire service leaders to talk about pertinent issues facing their field. Jones, who was selected last spring, is one of 22 Americans in the field to attend the conference. The conference will be held at the British Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh, U.K. and the Scottish Fire Services College in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Sue Burke has been promoted to Stormwater Management Engineer. Burke is a graduate of the University of Virginia and is a licensed Professional Engineer. She has been working for the Town during the past year in the Stormwater Management Division of the Engineering Department. Sue has extensive work experience in both public and private sector civil engineering, with emphasis on stormwater management and related water resource activities.

Stacy Graves (Fire) was named a "Home-town Hero" on Sept. 27 by WCHL radio for his efforts to raise money and supplies for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Phil Mason, Ralph Karpinos and **Catherine Lazorko** (left to right) ran the Carrboro 10K race on Oct. 1. They run various routes from Town Hall a couple of days a week.



Police Chief Gregg Jarvies has announced the following promotions to become effective on Nov. 9. A swearing-in ceremony for new supervisors and commanders will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, at Town Hall.

- **Captain Brian Curran** promoted to the rank of Major
- **Lieutenant Chris Blue** promoted to the rank of Captain
- **Lieutenant Jackie Carden** promoted to the rank of Captain
- **Sergeant Robert Carden** promoted to the rank of Lieutenant
- **Sergeant Milton Durham** promoted to the rank of Lieutenant
- **Sergeant Kevin Gunter** promoted to the rank of Lieutenant
- **Sergeant Leo Vereen** promoted to the rank of Lieutenant



Amy Oland (Finance) had just returned from a pediatrician's appointment for daughter Emma Rose's four-month physical when she attended the Town's Campaign Kick-Off on Sept. 30. Employees took turns playing with Emma to admire her sweetness — and to guess her weight for prizes! **George Small** (Engineering) came out the winner with a guess of 11 lbs. 14 oz., just one ounce more than correct. See pg. 3 for more about the Combined Campaign.

New open space for Chapel Hill!
The Town has purchased for \$1.05 million open space totaling about 22.8 acres in the Northside neighborhood and along 15-501



Frances Rapley (Library) was honored for 25 years of service to the Town at an Oct. 7 awards ceremony led by Town Manager **Cal Horton**. Rapley won the flower centerpiece from a lottery-drawn award tradition at the event's conclusion. Congratulations to all employees who reached service-year milestones. For the full list of employees honored, please see next month's **TOWNtalk**.

south of Southern Village. The purchase of the six tracts for open space was authorized by the Town Council, which has set as a priority for the Town to identify, protect and preserve open spaces and critical natural areas. The purchase was made possible with open space bond funds, approved by Chapel Hill voters in November 2003. With this recent acquisition, the Town now owns about 740 acres of open space.

Compliments

Praise
from
Citizens



Keith Alston, Brian Parker and **Tony Roof** (Fire) were praised by Joyce Morgan in an Oct. 3 letter. Morgan was stranded with a flat tire and had been waiting 45 minutes for a roadside wrecker for assistance. "I want to say how very pleased and appreciative I am for this unexpected service," Morgan wrote. "I am new in Chapel Hill, and I have been given a very fine welcome from these three young men."



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The Official Kick-off event for "Active October in Chapel Hill" will be held from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in Southern Village on The Green. There will be games, activities, live music and entertainment. Bring the whole family out to celebrate and get it moving!

Chapel Hill's Active Living by Design program, funded by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. GO! Chapel Hill promotes active living in neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. For more information, contact Len Cone at 968-2755.

Main Stage Schedule:

- 4 p.m.** – Bouncing Bulldogs
- 4:30 p.m.** – Chapel Hill H.S. Cheerleaders
- 5 p.m.** – Demonstration & Informal Instruction
- 5 p.m.** – Chapel Hill H.S. Jazz Band
- 5:30 p.m.** – Mayor Kevin Foy and GO! Chapel Hill Chair Terry Blalock
- 5:45 p.m.** – Aaron Nelson of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce will lead the "largest-ever electric slide" in Chapel Hill!
- 6 p.m.** - UNC Loreleis
- 6:15 p.m.** – Saludos Company (salsa band)
- 7:15 p.m.** – Countdown Quartet (swing & jazz)

Event Areas:

- 5:30 p.m.** – Contests and Games (Twister Game Tournament and Contests in Bubble Gum Blowing, Frisbees, Airplanes, and Hula Hooping)
- 4 - 5:30 p.m.** – Scrap Exchange
- 4 - 5:30 p.m.** – Walk for Health Tours, T-shirts and Pedometers

Recycling

As fall begins and spent annual gardens are weeded out and dug up, it's a great time to start a compost pile. If done right, by next spring, you'll have some great dirt available for the new garden. If you already have a compost pile, it's a great time to add water to it. See our links to composting information at www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/edu.asp

–Blair Pollock,
Orange County Recycling Coordinator

Campaign Pledge Cards Due

The Combined Campaign Kick-Off was held on Sept. 30, and employees who participated helped to raise \$600 – just by having a bit of fun and games. There were hot dogs and chili (made by Sandy Cook), baked goods, a raffle, music and games.

Transit and Public Works departments will hold additional campaign kick-offs on Oct. 14 and Oct. 21, respectively.

Department representatives have distributed pledge cards, and employees who wish to participate should do so by the end of the month. For more information, contact your department rep or Campaign Chair Carol Abernethy in the Manager's Office.

WINNERS OF THE RAFFLE:

- Photo album given by Flo Miller – Won by Brenda Jones
- Southern Season Gift Certificate (Sabrina Oliver) – Tanita Howard
- Blue glass candle holder (Carol Abernethy) – Mark Bayles
- Hand knit scarf (Jeannette Taylor) – Bill Letteri
- Scented candle (Flo Miller) – Andre Jones
- Corvette model car (Flo Miller) – Tina Vaughn
- Pottery (Sandy Cook) – Bob Avery
- Hand dyed silk scarf (Carol Abernethy) – Sandy Cook
- Ceramic candy jar (Flo Miller) – Ralph Karpinos

Supporting the Campaign: *Police Major Tony Oakley (top photo) stops by for a quick lunch; and visiting on the patio are (l-r) Cary Degraffenreidt, Mike Gary, Andre' Jones, and Pam Eastwood.*



Fuel Savers



In September when the gas prices started to rise, my husband Mike and I decided to carpool. It is working out better than I had expected.

We live in Holly Springs, which is about a 75-mile round trip or a 45-minute drive (when you include dropping off our daughter Morgan at daycare) to Chapel Hill. We now need to leave the house about 15 minutes earlier than when we were traveling separately. Mike drives to Chapel Hill, drops off Morgan, then me, and finally heads to his job in Hillsborough. Sometimes we stay in Chapel Hill to eat dinner with Morgan's yai yai (grandma); otherwise we head home with enough time to eat dinner and head down to the park before it gets too dark.

There are a few drawbacks. Mike is getting tired of hearing the same books that I read to Morgan in the car! But a new benefit is that I have gotten the chance to ride the buses in Chapel Hill during lunchtime errands. This is actually a bit nostalgic for me because I remember riding the bus with my grandma when I was Morgan's age. We visited almost every park in Charlotte, all by bus.

We have the ability to drive separately, but carpooling sure does help the pocketbook!
– Amy Harvey (Clerk's Office)

Send your "Fuel Savers" to the newsletter editor at clazorko@townofchapelhill.org or 968-2893.

Festifall is wonderfall in 33rd year!



Festifall was held on one of the most beautiful days of fall. This year's Oct. 2 event focused on bringing a down-home feel to the annual fair on West Franklin Street. Artisans, international foods vendors and non-profits and Town groups displayed their crafts, foods and information throughout the fair. A highlight was the New Kids' Zone, filled with children's arts and crafts, games and large slides. Entertainment featured a variety of musical venues throughout the day. Parks and Recreation organizers estimate attendance at 15,000 people.



Town hosts family occasion for employees

The Town's first-ever Employee Day at the Park brought employees and their families together on Sept. 17 at the S. Estes Drive Community Center for swimming, music, hot dogs, outdoor games, indoor rock climbing and more. Lively music flowed throughout the park as a catered lunch was provided, along with plenty of lemonade and drinks as the event was held on one of the hottest days in September.



Pictured clockwise from right at the picnic table are Nina Searcy, Terry Battle, Allison Battle, Nestle the dog, Jerry Battle, Chelsea Laws with sons Julian and Niél, and Tracy Dudley; at the indoor climbing wall are Timothy Chaplain with his daughters; on the basketball court are (l-r) Nicholas Brower, Wes Tilghman and Benjamin Brower (Brower twins, sons of Catherine Lazorko); and in her climbing gear is DeShauna Dudley, daughter of Tracy Dudley.

