



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

June 2005
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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report



BY CAL HORTON, Town Manager

Roger Waldon, longtime head of the Planning Department, will retire from Town service at the end of May. Roger has served the Town since 1984, coming to us from the Triangle J Council of Governments. His dedication to the community has been exceptional, not only as evidenced by his professional work but also by his other public service. He provided leadership in a number of community groups, including a term on the School Board. Roger will be joining a private consulting firm and will have a Chapel Hill office.

Just a few weeks later, in July, Long Range Planning Coordinator Chris Berndt also will retire. Chris has been a fixture of Town government, having begun her service in 1977. She has had more to do with helping create and maintain affordable housing in Chapel Hill than any other individual. She also has supervised the use of tens of millions of dollars in federal grant funding to support community improvements.

We will miss these two fine people.

At the same time, we look forward to working with those who will take up their work. J.B. Culpepper will be the Acting Planning Director. She and the other planners need our best support.

The Town of Chapel Hill was incorporated in 1819. This is our 186th year of operations. Hundreds of employees have come before us and hundreds will come after us. But each of us has the opportunity to make the community a better place than it was when we came here. Thank you for doing that every day.

Ted Hobgood

Town Receptionist

Joined Town: 2002

Department: Manager's Office

Duties: Ted Hobgood is the "Voice of Town Hall," responding to myriad calls at the Town's main telephone number. He transfers, responds, assists, cajoles and listens to citizens with interest and patience. Ever seen the CHIMP online information system? Check out Hobgood's web work at <http://townhall/chimp>.

Personal: His telephone voice sounds professional and measured, but there was a time when he set a tone to agitate: "IT'S TIME FOR ACTION! IT'S TIME FOR EXCITEMENT! IT'S TIME FOR THE MAYHEM OF THE MAIN EVENT!" As the "Voice of the New Frontier" in the 1990s, Hobgood announced wrestling matches for an independent wrestling promotion. Says Hobgood: "Wrestling fans enjoy emotional and moral competitions dramatically acted out, complete with grudges and retribution."

His passions range from music (Cab Calloway's "Minnie The Moocher") to collecting (among his toys are 700 Fisher Price Little People) and popular culture (Popular Culture Quotes are offered daily at his front desk). He has a BA in music composition from Oberlin and an MA in popular culture from Bowling Green.

In the Spotlight



Hobgood models a wrestling belt that he designed and crafted.

His talents range from web and graphic design (previously he was the graphic artist for the City of Durham), radio announcing (a DJ at WOBC in Oberlin and WIOZ in Southern Pines), and solving problems through information service. Of his job, he says "People are so happy to find a human being on the other end of the phone, and I love helping them."

Popular Culture Quote: "We can rebuild him. We can make him better than he was before. Better. Stronger. Faster." Sound familiar? See answer on pg. 4.

COMING UP

Memorial Day Holiday - May 30
Employee Appreciation Lunch - June 24
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Chapel Hill High School
Lunch & Learn - June 29, 1 p.m., topic is "Diabetes," Public Works Breakroom

TOWNtalk will be on hiatus until September. Enjoy your summer!

July Fourth Celebration - Fireworks at Kenan Stadium, Liquid Pleasure. See pg. 4.
Sports Night Out - Aug. 6 (Charlotte Sting), Aug. 26 (Durham Bulls)
Employee Health Fair - Aug. 19



In Brief

Cary Degraffenreidt (Public Works) was recognized for outstanding job performance and selected as the Employee of the Month for Public Works during April 2005. He works in the Field Operations Division.

Kumar Neppalli (Engineering) has been admitted to NC State University to work on a doctorate degree in civil engineering with focus on traffic and transportation. Neppalli holds a master's degree in civil engineering from UNC Charlotte and is certified as an Engineer-in-Training (EIT) by the State Board of Professional Registration for Engineers. Neppalli will begin his studies this summer, arranging his classes around continuing full-time employment with the Town.

J.B. Culpepper has been named acting planning director by Town Manager Cal Horton. Culpepper will fill a post made vacant by the retirement of Roger Waldon. Horton noted Culpepper's experience and leadership abilities in announcing the appointment. Culpepper has worked with the Town since 1985 in a variety of planning posts and now serves as senior planning coordinator. Prior to Chapel Hill she was a planner for Guilford County, N.C. She earned a bachelor of arts in urban affairs from Virginia Tech in 1980 and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the same university in 1988.

After a first place win at the regional competition in Raleigh, the **Varsity Squad of the Cheer America Cheerleading Squad** representing Hargraves Community Center went on to a first place Tri State victory in Greensboro on May 21-22. There were 22 teams competing from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The Junior Varsity Squad, after a fourth place finish at regionals, showed a strong performance at the Tri State competition.



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Employee Appreciation

The Employee Appreciation Program is changing to include regular events throughout the year to reach all Town Employees, including those who work various shifts and schedules. The program aims to effectively use budgets for these events to provide a wider variety of activities so that more employees can participate. Volunteers are needed to assist during the actual days of the events. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sonya Reddick Shaw at Parks and Recreation at 968-2787 ext. 212. We look forward to a year of innovative, fun and exciting activities!

APRIL TO JUNE

Smoothie Scoop Day:

Held May 20. What a great luau!

Employee Appreciation Lunch and Activities:

June 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Chapel Hill High School. Enjoy the day with a catered meal, basketball, board games, entertainment, door prizes and employee of the year awards.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER

Employee Health Fair: Aug. 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hargraves Recreation Center
Town of Chapel Hill Sports Nights Out: Aug. 6 (Charlotte Sting, \$9 tickets) and Aug. 26 (Durham Bulls, \$7 tickets) baseball games. Deadline to purchase tickets at Parks and Recreation Office: Charlotte Sting - July 8; Durham Bulls - July 22.

Employee Day in the Park: Late August to early September, employees and family members participate in indoor and outdoor games and activities at local park or center (swimming, climbing wall, volleyball, basketball; hotdogs/hamburgers served; entertainment, children's games and activities).



Charles Mitchell (Public Works), pictured with Deputy Town Manager Flo Miller, was one of 40 employees recognized for reaching service-year milestones at a breakfast organized by Human Resources on May 13. Congratulations on reaching your 20-year mark, Charles!



Smoothie Scoop Day kicked off the Employee Appreciation Program on May 20. Selecting just the right toppings for his ice cream is Mike Troutman (Parks and Recreation).

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

(For Front-Line Employees)

Sugar and Spice:

Cookies, pastries, hot tea, coffee, hot chocolate in fall or winter.

"Fruitti Tutti Day":

Various frozen fruit and lemonade drinks in spring or summer.

The events above will recognize front-line, non-supervisory employees and administrative staff from all departments who interact daily with the public during the first shift (that's 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Departments will determine activities for employees who work second and third shifts.

JANUARY TO MARCH

Chili Cook-off Contest: Employees participate by cooking their favorite chili to be judged by department heads.

Talent Show: Employees volunteer to participate in talent competition for audience of employees, friends and families. Prizes to winners.

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Human Resources

Open enrollment for the Town Health Insurance Plan will be available soon with changes accepted through July 15. Deductions will begin Aug. 5. Coverage will be effective on Sept. 1. Watch for announcements about meetings and more. Information: 968-2700.

Bike to Work



Light rain and slick roads diminished Town participation in National Bike to Work Day on May 20. The following Monday was better weather, so **Phil Mason** (Planning) rode his bike about 23 miles into work from Apex. It took him 1 hour and 16 minutes, and he avoided traffic by heading out early. The experience was positive, and he says he may ride more regularly – perhaps once a month. He planned a longer route home, about 30 miles. Avid cyclist **Gordon Sutherland** (Planning) was a local event organizer.

Safety Planning



Members of the Parks and Recreation Employee Safety Team gathered recently to discuss updating their department's hazard communication program. The team goals are to prevent injuries among employees and to ensure regulatory compliance. *Pictured clockwise from top are **Bob Finley** (HR), **Andre Boynton**, **Jason Greene**, **Lisa Baaske**, and **Andrea Judge**. (Team member not pictured is **Sonya Reddick Shaw**).*

Town celebrates new street name

The Town held a communitywide celebration on May 8 to dedicate Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The day marked the 45th anniversary of Dr. King's visit to Chapel Hill in 1960.

1. The Town Council unveiled the new street sign to a crowd of more than 200 people.
2. Festivities began outside of Town Hall with music by the J.R. Manley Essence of God Youth Choir and the St. Joseph Male Chorus (at right).
3. Presentations were made by Mayor Kevin Foy, Mayor pro tem Edith Wiggins (at right), Rev. Jill Edens of the United Church of Chapel Hill; Bill Thorpe, former Chapel Hill Town Council member; and Fred Battle, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP. Elizabeth Akililu, a sixth grade student, recited her poem about Dr. King, which won second place in North Carolina in the national PTA-sponsored poetry contest.
4. A people's procession marched to Hargraves Center, where festival-goers enjoyed music by United Voices of Praise and Liquid Pleasure.
5. and 6. Barbecue, children's amusements and other activities were offered throughout the day.

SPECIAL THANKS from *Catherine Lazorko and Emily Dickens, who assisted the Observances Committee in the celebration:* Numerous Town staff members helped to make the street renaming a success. A staff committee led by **Bill Letteri** (Public Works) worked on the logistics of making and installing the signs (**Richard Terrell**, **Donnie Tart**, **Jerry Battle**, **Jerry Neville** and **Craig Logan** of Public Works), updating maps and assisting utility companies (**Deborah Squires** and **George Small** of Engineering), distributing information to assist affected address-holders (**Tanita Howard** and **Sabrina Oliver** of Clerk's Office), assisting the residents of the former Martin Luther King Jr. Street (**Tina Vaughn**, **Jackie Thompson** and **Ron Gallerani** of Housing), and assisting affected Town departments (**Coco Hall** of Finance).

For the celebration, a team effort provided a memorable event for the historic occasion: Police (**Donald Bradley** and **Tony Oakley**), Parks and Recreation (**Wes Tilghman**, **Nate Davis**, **Sandra Edwards**, **Lauren Radson** and **Jason Greene**), Public Works (**Forrest Heath**, **Tim Smith**, **Thomas Watkins**, **Jon Ellington**, **Santiago Hernandez**, **Wayne Harris**, **Joe Farrington** and **Leon Bumphus**), Transportation (**Patrick Ford** and **Nancy Hayes**), Parking Services (**Brenda Jones**, **Charles Alston**, **Rob Killough** and **Chris Siemer**), Library (**Dorice Johnson** and **Kathy Thompson**), and Information Technology (**Bob Avery**).



1



2



3



4



5



6

Compliments

Praise
from
Citizens



Kay Pearlstein and J.B. Culpepper

(Planning) were thanked for their assistance to CCB/SunTrust in obtaining sign permits.

“The customer service exhibited was exceptional and represents in my view a focus on your part to deliver the highest possible service to the citizens of Chapel Hill,” said James L.

Carter of SunTrust.



July 4th!

The Town's July Fourth Celebration and Fireworks at Kenan Stadium will feature entertainment by Liquid Pleasure. Gates (southside only)

open at 6 p.m., and the music begins at 7 p.m. Fireworks, which are visible from stadium seating only, begin at 9:30 p.m. Fireworks may be shot earlier than planned depending on the weather, so get there early!

Got Plastic?

Residents can now use credit cards at the Finance Department to pay for Town fees like business licenses, inspection permits, and zoning maps.

Finance Director Kay Johnson says it's the first step toward accepting plastic across all departments, including Parks and Recreation, Public Works, the Chapel Hill Public Library and Police. Since fall of 2005, Parking Services has been the only area in the Town that has accepted payments by credit card.

A couple of rules to be noted for the Finance Department — there is a \$10 minimum, and credit cards may not be used for public housing charges or Orange County taxes. The Town accepts cash and check payments for Orange County taxes, and encourages residents who wish to pay by credit card to pay directly to the county, which accepts credit card payments by phone or online. For more information, call Finance at 968-2712 or Orange County Revenue Department at 245-2725.

New Employees

Joshua Jonassaint (Parks and Recreation),
Recreation Assistant

William Rehm (Information Technology), Web
Systems Administrator

Retiring Employees

David Alston (Transportation)

8/9/80 – 7/31/05

Chris Berndt (Planning)

8/29/77 – 7/31/05

Britt Sanders (Transportation)

8/11/79 – 6/30/05

Ron Taitt (Fire)

1/6/94 – 5/31/05

Roger Waldon (Planning)

11/12/84 – 5/31/05

Service Awards

The Town congratulates all employees who reached a service milestone during the first quarter of 2005.

5 Years

Scott Cantrell (Information Technology)

Patsy Heath (Library)

Johnny Spruiell (Public Works)

Darryl Russell (Fire)

Thomas Watkins (Public Works)

Robert Farrell (Transportation)

Fred Royal (Engineering)

Henry Burnett (Transportation)

Charles Powell (Fire)

Susan Whaley (Public Works)

Aprel Dumas (Transportation)

Kevin Fererro (Fire)

Charles Pardo (Police)

James Taylor (Fire)

Channing Cabe (Police)

Joseph Dicostanzo (Police)

Benjamin Farrell (Police)

Reagan Kramer (Police)

Kenneth Lennon (Police)

10 Years

Lee Wilson (Transportation)

John Kiely (Transportation)

Angela Turner (Public Works)

Scott Falise (Police)

Thomas Mitchell (Police)

Donald Rhoads (Police)

Colleen Lanigan (Parks & Recreation)

Tiffany Maner (Police)

James Mansfield (Public Works)

Scott Taylor (Police)

15 Years

Dan Jones (Fire)

Pam Kilby (Library)

20 Years

MC Russell (Engineering)

JB Culpepper (Planning)

George Long (Housing)

Kathye Williams (Police)

Michael Whitmore (Housing)

Mike Taylor (Engineering)

Ceberettia Hinton (Transportation)

Charles Mitchell (Public Works)

25 Years

Elias Lack (Transportation)

Garland Sawyer (Transportation)

Randy Ballard (Public Works)

Annie Sharpe (Transportation)

30 Years

Larry Stroud (Public Works)

32 Years

Nate Davis (Parks & Recreation)

Recycling

This summer, if you're renting a place at the beach or the mountains, make sure to ask how to recycle while you're there. If they don't know, ask the recycling coordinator for the town or county you're visiting. Hint: The Town of Emerald Isle has curbside recycling and the Garden Club has a site for aluminum can recycling at Merchant's Park across from Mike's Restaurant. If all else fails, rinse and bag those cans and bottles and bring them home.

—Blair Pollack, Orange County Recycling Coordinator



Facts,
figures
and trivia

Who Knew?

From pg. 1 and Ted Hobgood's *Popular Culture Quote of the Day*, remember the Six Million Dollar Man?

“Steve Austin, Astronaut - A man barely alive . . .

Gentlemen, we can rebuild him . . . we have the technology. We have the capability to make the world's first bionic man. Steve Austin will be that man. Better than he was before, Stronger, Faster . . .”