

# TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

April 2005  
Vol. 1, No. 8

[www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)



## A Short Report

BY CAL HORTON, Town Manager

Carolina fans celebrated a men's basketball victory on Franklin Street after the Duke game. (Maybe some day the women's victories will be observed with equal vigor.) But, it has been such a long time since Carolina has won big games that the students have forgotten the traditions of victory celebrations. In a recent example, instead of gathering in the middle of the 100 block of Franklin Street where it is relatively safer, hundreds wanted to assemble in the middle of the Franklin-Columbia intersection where there are too many opportunities to have rough encounters with cars. The cars will always win.

However, the Police, Fire and Public Works departments still know how to protect the celebrants and clean the downtown. Police officers controlled traffic and managed the behavior of the crowd; firefighters extinguished fires outside of the controlled area and made sure that fires in the middle of the street remained small; and the public works staff provided the traffic control devices and had the town looking clean and orderly by early morning.

Carolina students have no tradition of riot and rampage as occurs in some other communities where celebrations get out of control. The main reason for that tradition is the good work of police officers, firefighters and public works staff who set the tone for such events: friendly and fun, but fighting and property damage won't be tolerated.

No small city in the country does a better job of managing large crowds. Thank you for the excellent work. And, Go Heels!

## Chelsea Laws

Senior Building Inspector

Joined Town: 1996

Department: Inspections

**Duties:** Responsible for inspecting residential and commercial buildings for compliance with the NC Building Code, the Handicap Code and the Commercial Code. She issues correction notices, inspects construction sites at various project phases, and provides solutions to builders, contractors and homeowners to resolve code compliance issues. Most days, she spends at least some time crawling underneath houses, inspecting homes in the foundation and framing stages of construction. On her worst call, she fell through an attic floor but stopped her descent in time to escape serious injury.

**Personal:** Laws began working for the Town as an apprentice in a building inspector's program when she was a mere senior

## In the Spotlight



attending Chapel Hill High School. She finished in three years, a year ahead of schedule. She has held a longtime interest in architecture and considered it as a career possibility.

A native of Henderson, she lives in the Durham County portion of Chapel Hill with her husband, Reco, and their sons, Niel, 3, and Julian, 1. In her free time, she reads, draws and plays Legos with her children.

**Philosophy:** "Anything worth doing is worth doing right."



## COMING UP

**Apple Chill Festival - April 17**  
**Renaming of Airport Road - May 8**

The **Apple Chill Street Fair** hosted by the Town will be held on Sunday, April 17. This year, the fair will run from 1 to 7 p.m. The festival will feature themed areas, including the Arts and Crafts Court on East Franklin Street, the Kid Zone, the International Food Court, the Motorcycle Display, Tar Heel Lane and a variety of entertainment. Chapel Hill Transit park and ride shuttles will be available to provide transportation to the fair. Information: [www.applechill.com](http://www.applechill.com)

# In Brief



Would your little firefighter enjoy a handmade pedal fire engine? A donation of \$1 is all it takes to participate in the raffle for the pretty blue fire truck, built by Byron Greeson, fire equipment operator. The fundraiser raffle supported by the **Chapel Hill Firefighter's Association** will benefit its outreach to the community, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Habitat for Humanity, NC Jaycee Burn Center and the Ronald McDonald House. To participate, stop by any Chapel Hill fire station or call 969-2009 or visit [www.local2580.org](http://www.local2580.org). The drawing will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 17, following Apple Chill. Participants need not be present to win.

**Dreams of the Community** is the 2005 Community Art Project of the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission. The exhibition, which will be on view in public places throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro from April 7 to May 27, will be a peek into the dreams of our community. A reception featuring live music by singer/saxophonist Tim Smith, refreshments, and art will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at the Chapel Hill Museum, 523 E. Franklin St.

Earth Day will be celebrated in Chapel Hill with a march at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 24, and a fair from 2 to 6 p.m. The celebration, "**Earth**



**Editing and Layout:** Catherine Lazorko  
**Proofreaders:** Carol Abernethy and Ted Hobgood  
**Contact:** [clazorko@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:clazorko@townofchapelhill.org)  
 919/968-2893

**Action Fest!**" is intended to raise awareness of environmental issues and solutions. Participants in the march are asked to meet at 1 p.m. at UNC's McCorkle Place across from the Franklin Street Post Office at Henderson Street. The march will conclude at the fair to be held at Lincoln Center, 750 S. Merritt Mill Road.

**Jerry Battle** (Field Operations) was selected as the Public Works Employee of the Month for February 2005. The purpose of the award is to recognize employees for exceptional and outstanding work performance.

The **Police Department** is recruiting across the region for law enforcement officers in an effort to fill vacancies due to attrition and retirement. Over the next few weeks, officers will visit dozens of campuses and military installations in an effort to fill vacancies in the ranks. Through this recruiting effort, the Chapel Hill Police Department hopes to hire eight officers. The Town will accept applications for through April 22. Interested candidates can visit the Chapel Hill Police Department's website at [www.chpd.us](http://www.chpd.us) or call 919-968-2700 for more information.

The **Human Resources Department** will host a Lunch & Learn Workshop from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, at the Fire Department Training Center located in the red school house behind Fire Station No. 4, 1695 Airport Road. The workshop topic "Allergy 101" will be led by T.J. Gouveia-Pisano, a clinical education consultant with Pfizer. Participants are asked to register with Donna Tench by 5 p.m. April 25 and bring a brown bag lunch.

Numerous **Chapel Hill Police** officers will participate in the North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. The event involves more than 4,000 law enforcement officials from more than 400 agencies who take part in a 2,000-mile, 16-day torch relay to pass the Special Olympics Flame of Hope across the state. All of the relays converge for the lighting of the cauldron during the Special Olympics North Carolina Summer Games Opening Ceremony on June 3. To learn more about ways to support the fundraising efforts of

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Torch Run 2005, including raffles and more, contact Office Phil Smith at 968-2760 ext. 134.

## Welcome New Employees!

**Nathan Chambers** (Police), Police Officer  
**Thomas Mowbray** (Police), Police Officer  
**Luther Nash** (Inspections), Sr. Plumbing Inspector  
**Dana Stidham** (Planning), Planner



The Employee Forum, an employee advisory committee to the Town Manager, is reviewing several ideas from employees. Recent proposals include the following:

**Supplemental Insurance.** The Forum is asking employees if they would favor employee-paid additions to insurance programs, including additional coverage for cancer, long-term care, accident, disability, hospital confinement and life insurance.

**Spanish Classes.** Employees have expressed a desire to learn Spanish to be more helpful to Spanish-speaking citizens.

If you are interested in learning more about the Employee Forum or wish to support proposals, contact your department representative. Employees who serve on the Forum include the following: Will Quick, Jackie Thompson, Wendy Walsh, Maggie Burnett, Charles Bynum, Amy Harvey, Dorice Johnson, Chelsea Laws, Terry Gearhart, Norman Clark, Ceberettia Hinton, Deborah Squires, Jerry Neville, Kristi McClellan, Beth Dean, Jon Bell, Lee Harris, Chris Blue, Ann Brown, Donnie Rhoads, Travel Watkins and Wes Tilghman.

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