



# TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

November 2008  
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www.townofchapelhill.org

## A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,  
Town Manager

Thanks to cooperation among Town departments and community partners, the Town successfully reduced the size of the Halloween event on Franklin Street with an estimated showing of 35,000.

Our success would not have been possible without the collaboration and support from the University, student government and our business community. This brought us closer to a home-grown event that was safer and more manageable. We did this together as a community.

Reducing the crowd without huge traffic jams and neighborhood problems is a true testament to the Town Team and our ability to work across departmental lines. To manage the event, the Town coordinates a workforce of more than 700 people, including law enforcement officers, fire and emergency medical service personnel, parking monitors, public works, and parks and recreation crew members.

The "Homegrown Halloween" information campaign as well as strategies to limit access to downtown Chapel Hill and improve public safety returned this event to its hometown traditions. Franklin Street was closed at about 10 p.m. to accommodate the crowd and was cleared of people after midnight to wrap up the party. Area streets were opened to traffic about 2 a.m. after being cleaned by Town crews.

Town crews worked through Saturday morning to clean up litter and restore order. The Town held special hours on Saturday morning to receive calls from residents who reported post-Halloween related issues that require prompt attention. Few calls were received.

In the closed area this year, five people were arrested for simple affray (4 arrests) and impersonating an officer (1 arrest). Last year, there were 13 arrests in the closed area with more fights and drunk and disorderly behavior.

Orange County Emergency Medical Services responded this year to 18 alcohol overdose calls and nine people were transported to UNC Hospitals. Last year, EMS responded to 31 calls and eight people were transported to UNC Hospitals.

## Wendy Smith

**Environmental Education  
Coordinator**

**Duties:** Wendy worked with the Town from 1989 to 1998 as Recycling Coordinator in Public Works, starting a recycling program that is now Orange Community Recycling. She returned to the Town in November 2004 and since then has worked tirelessly to educate Chapel Hill residents on how to best manage the runoff that enters streams and lakes after every rain storm to reduce pollution.

Wendy is especially effective at reaching out to and educating school children to become good stewards of our natural environment. She is active in planning and participating in festivals and special events, and conducts outreach through the media and in schools, camps, youth programs, and churches. She serves on the media and outreach committee for the Clean Water Education Partnership with Triangle J Council of Governments.

Every fall, Wendy coordinates the annual North Carolina Big Sweep litter cleanup for Orange County. She works with many volunteers, and she loves working with other members of the community to make it a better place. Wendy especially loves the teamwork and enthusiastic efforts of schools, businesses, residents and other Town departments to help keep the streams in our community clean and to make Chapel Hill a safer and more beautiful place to live and work.

**Personal:** Wendy is married to Tim Smith, who works in Parks and Recreation's landscape division. Her family also includes son Alex, 13, stepson Hank, 22, and Zack Hou-

## Value in the Spotlight

### Teamwork

cooperative • mission-focused • strength  
shared decisions • consequence awareness  
relationships • enhancement of resources



Wendy Smith demonstrates the Enviroscope watershed model.

dini, a golden retriever mix. Wendy reads mystery novels, travels, and listens to all kinds of music (from the Grateful Dead to Bob Marley to Willie Nelson).

**Our Value:** Wendy is one reason why Chapel Hill is the enlightened community that it is.

—George Small (Engineering)



Managing Halloween is a cooperative effort of numerous employees, some of whom are pictured here from their posts at the Command Center on Franklin Street early Saturday morning.

## COMING UP

**Nov. 7-9: Library Book Sale.** Info: 968-2780

**Nov. 13: Employee Forum Meeting, 9-11 a.m.,**  
Transit

**Nov. 14: Deadline for Cal Horton Service  
Award nominations (page 2)**

**Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday — most  
municipal offices will be closed**

**Nov. 30: Holiday Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.,  
University Baptist Church**

**Dec. 13: Chapel Hill-Carrboro Holiday  
Parade, 10 a.m. to noon**

# In Brief

## A NEW WELLNESS PROGRAM

will give incentives to employees who are able to show improvements in their health over the course of the five-month program. The program includes a baseline health assessment and screening, health coaching, and a follow-up assessment and screening. Appointments are available for the initial screening on Friday, Nov. 7 and Monday, Nov. 10. To make an appointment, email [lwade@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:lwade@townofchapelhill.org).

Tools will be provided to help you achieve success in improving your wellness. Incentives will be awarded on improved outcome—there will be no need to track participation.

Wellness Champions in each department will help motivate, communicate and encourage participants.

Business Services: **Megan Hall**

Parking Services: **Tracy Dudley**

CaPA: **Samantha Kryder**

Engineering: **Lauren Draughon,**

**Jeanette Taylor**

Fire: **Diana Harris, Darryl Russell**

Housing: **Sabrina Farrar**

Library: **M. J. Goodrum**

Manager: **John Richardson**

Parks and Recreation: **Robb English,**

**Johnny Pompey**

Planning: **Len Cone, Loryn Clark**

Police: **Julie Laws, Debbie Timmons,**

**Shelethea Wright-Quick**

Public Works: **Erin Kawamata**

Transit: **Debra Davis, Earnestine**

**Garrett, Marcia Margotta, Akalema Pherribo**

Project Coordinator: **Lisa Edwards**

(Human Resource Development)

We are delighted to welcome **Mike Beckman**, our new Occupational Health and Safety Officer. Mike comes to us from Winston-Salem where he served as Employee Health and Safety Director for the City of Winston-Salem for almost 12 years. Since leaving Winston-Salem,



TOWNtalk is produced by the Communications and Public Affairs Department  
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Melanie Miller

## Homegrown Halloween

The Homegrown Halloween 2008 initiative helped reduce the size of crowds and Franklin Street and make the event safer and more manageable.

About 35,000 revelers celebrated Halloween on Franklin Street this year, compared to nearly 80,000 in 2007.

To manage the event, the Town must coordinate a workforce of more than 700 people, including law enforcement officers, fire and emergency medical service personnel, parking monitors, public works, and parks and recreation crew members.

Thanks to employees in

many departments, including Parking, Police, Public Works, Transit and Parks and Recreation, who helped manage crowds, attend to medical emergencies and clean up after the event.



he has been team leader for Insource Safety Associates in Charlotte. He has held a variety of positions since 1981 in Safety and Risk Management. Mike has a B.S. in Industrial Design from Auburn University in Alabama.

**FREE FLU SHOTS** are available at participating pharmacies or physician's offices through BCBSNC. Dependent children (9-17) may receive a flu shot at a physician's office, but must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Find locations at [www.bcbsnc.com/flu](http://www.bcbsnc.com/flu). You must present your BCBSNC ID card. Information: 403-1986

Thanks to everyone who helped clean up Chapel Hill streams during the Big Sweep on Oct. 4! More than 200 volunteers helped collect 9,200 pounds of trash, including old tires, car parts, construction debris, bottles and cans, furniture, shopping carts and more. The trash was picked up by Town crews and separated into recyclable components at the landfill.

"We collected more trash around our creeks this year than in previous years," reports **Wendy Smith** (Stormwater), coordinator of the event for Orange County. Groups may volunteer to clean up litter throughout the year by contacting Stormwater Management at (919) 969-RAIN.

Nominations will be accepted through Friday, Nov. 14 for the first annual **W. Calvin Horton Service Award**. Named after former Town Manager Cal Horton, the purpose of this award is to recognize and honor distinguished service by Town of Chapel Hill employees with a monetary award. To request a nomination form, contact Human Resource Development at 968-2700 or [hr@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:hr@townofchapelhill.org).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact members of the committee: **Deborah Squires** (Engineering), **John Newark** (Public Works), **Anita Hackney** (Transit), **Lance Norris** (Public Works), **Dan Jones** (Fire) and **Loryn Clark** (Planning)

## FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE

requests, call Maintenance Operations at 969-5119 or Bob Ziemendorf at 969-5120. For after hours building maintenance, call 406-9078. Listen to instructions and leave a message that includes your name, your contact telephone number, the name of the building you are calling about and a description of the emergency. After providing this information, press the number 8. This will activate the pager system and the on-call mechanic will be notified.

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# Compliments



**Tim Auble** (Transit) was complimented by Cynthia Anderson for being an excellent, careful driver. "He is always very nice, so courteous and considerate, and is truly THE BEST driver I have ever had."

Don Hunter wrote to thank **Sue Burke** (Stormwater), **Mike Taylor** (Engineering) and **Kay Pearlstein** (Planning) for going the extra mile to get timely approval of a revision to a zoning compliance permit to improve accessibility at University United Methodist Church.

**Annie Edwards** (Transit) was thanked by Mr. Kalos for the great service she provides on the CM route. He describes her as wonderful, always helpful, and goes out of her way to get him to his location.

Bruce Pagan, Durham Fire Chief, thanked the **Fire Department** for providing assistance to the Durham Fire Department following a boating accident that critically injured Durham Fire employee Erick Rozier. "The professionalism and willingness to help exhibited by you and the other members of the Chapel Hill Fire Department will not be forgotten by the members of the Durham Fire Department."

**Robert Myers** (Traffic Engineering) was thanked by Joel Sheer for assisting with preparations for the Library's 50th anniversary programs.

Ms. April Jackson was impressed with the helpful and kind service she received from **Ann Brown** (Transit).

**Anthony Williams** (Transit) was commended by Beth Clarke for being courteous, conscientious and careful.

**Val Gibson** (Transit) was complimented by Mary Cleland for dealing with congested traffic in a very professional and smooth manner. "Please let Val know how much I appreciate her efforts."

Irene Phipps, Animal Control Manager with Orange County Animal Services, thanked Town **Streets** and **Fire Department** employees for assisting with freeing a small kitten stuck in a street drain. "Please pass along ours and the kittens' gratitude to an exceptional crew."

# SMT Notes

The following is a brief update of some of the items that were announced and have been discussed recently by the Senior Management Team (SMT). To stay up to date on Town news and activities, subscribe to Chapel Hill eNews by contacting [pio@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:pio@townofchapelhill.org).

**Council Strategic Planning Retreat:** The retreat is scheduled for Jan. 9-10, 2009. The same information that was provided for the last retreat is to be provided again. Information is organized around Council goals and each department's successes, trends, and priorities.

Town Manager Roger L. Stancil is forming several management teams, including the following:

**Strategic Planning Group:** John Richardson, Rick Shreve, Andrew Stevenson, Jason

Damweber. This group will work on merging planning retreat outcomes, quarterly reporting, and other elements into the strategic plan.

**Sustainable Management Team:** This team will discuss issues of sustainability across department lines.

**Transportation Management Team:** Brian Litchfield, Kumar Neppalli, David Bonk and other representatives from departments affected by transit issues.

**High Density Development Work Group** will remain in place.

**Training and Development Team** is in first stages of discussion.

The team discussed anticipated problems and possible solutions to alleviate Halloween aftermath.

# Recycling



Corrugated cardboard is now recyclable at the curb in Orange County's programs. Corrugated cardboard has three layers, with a wavy inner layer. Empty and flatten boxes and place between the two bins, under a bin or in a bin. There is a 10 piece limit per collection and pieces may be no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet square.

Loads of more than 10 pieces or pieces bigger than 3 feet by 3 feet should be taken to the 24-hour recycling dropoff sites at Cedar Falls Park on Weaver Dairy Road, University Mall (behind the gas station on Estes Drive), Meadowmont (behind Harris Teeter), Carrboro Plaza (Behind ABC Store) or Hampton Pointe (on Hwy 86 in Hillsborough behind Home Depot).

Information: [www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling)

—Blair Pollock (Orange Community Recycling)



# Employee Forum



The Employee Forum discussed the following Hot Topics in 2008:

- Supported raise recommendation by Roger Stancil
- Communication with "SMT" (having the senior management team's minutes summarized and added to TOWNtalk)
- Emailing all Town employees the Employee Forum's meeting minutes
- Loss of computer lottery
- The Forum discussed the creation of a "Donated Leave Bank"
- Drug Testing zero-tolerance policy
- Compensation and benefits study
- Updated accurate job descriptions
- Worked with Transit on safety issues
- Supported multicultural training
- The Forum participated in a work session on alternative commuting challenges and opportunities

# Everyone Wins with the Combined Campaign

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Combined Campaign with pledges and fundraisers! Many employees came to Town Hall on Oct. 10 and to Public Works on Oct. 24 for Combined Campaign Kickoff events. Everyone had a great time, ate a lot of nachos, hot dogs, and baked treats, had a lot of fun playing games and got some good information from the representatives of the four federations of the Combined Campaign.

## The Winners Are:

**Jerry Battle** (Engineering): \$25 Kitchen Works Gift Certificate (Darts for Dollars)

**Flora Parrish** (Police): \$20 Bear Rock Café Gift Certificate (Otto's Pick and Putt)

**Megan Hall** (Business Management): \$25 Southern Season Gift Certificate (Darts)

**Megan Hall** (Business Management): \$20 Trader Joe's Gift Certificate (Operation)

**Chelsea Laws** (Inspections): \$25 Harris Teeter Gift Certificate (Darts for Dollars)

**Lee Thompson** (Public Works): \$25 Harris Teeter Gift Certificate (Darts)

**Keith Bowden** (Housing): \$25 Harris Teeter Gift Certificate (Otto's Pick and Putt)

## Raffle and Door Prize Winners

**Buck Johnson** (Traffic Engineering): \$20 Bruegger's Gift Certificate

**Sabrina Oliver** (CaPA): \$20 The Loop Gift Certificate

**Kristi McClellan** (Business Management): Fall Wreath

**Cathy Andrews** (Planning): Hand-knitted Neck Cowl

**Buck Johnson** (Traffic Engineering): Photo

**J.B. Culpepper** (Planning): Necklace

**Catherine Lazorko** (CaPA): Fall Centerpiece

**Louise Pettis** (Inspections): Fall Straw and Broom

**Mike Taylor** (Engineering): Indoor Outdoor Thermometer

**Cary Degraffenreidt** (Public Works): Ear Headphones

**Mike West** (Public Works): Flash Drive

**Jamie Rohe** (Planning): CD Wallet



*Ernie Rogers (left) and Jeannette Taylor (center) watch Chelsea Laws (right) try her hand at Operation.*



*Town Manager Roger L. Stancil (left) tries for a high score at Otto's Pick and Putt.*

**Sue Burke** (Stormwater): Jacket

**Mike Taylor** (Engineering): Necklace with Grey Stone

**Ray Gornto** (Traffic Engineering): Green Candle

**Zakia Alam** (Business Management): Spring Arrangement

**Buck Johnson** (Traffic Engineering): Green Necklace

**Zakia Alam** (Business Management): Black and Copper Necklace

**Jayson Staley** (Parks and Recreation): Earrings

Thanks to everyone who donated food and prizes, helped serve food and run games. A special thanks from **Kay McDaniel** to all who helped make the Public Works kickoff a success.



*Above, Keith Bowden (Housing) samples some of the tasty food served at the Public Works kickoff event by (left to right) Warren Edwards, Cary Degraffenreidt, and Charles Mitchell (all Public Works).*



*Providing information about Chapel Hill Transit are (left to right) Anne Brown, Anita Hackney and Marvin McGee.*