



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

March 2008
Vol. 4, No. 7

www.townofchapelhill.org

In Memory

Statement by Mayor Kevin Foy at the March 10 Council Public Hearing

A memorial for Eve Carson will be held at 4 p.m. March 18 at the Smith Center.

We begin this evening's meeting by acknowledging the grief and pain that we are suffering at the loss of our colleague and friend, Eve Carson.

Eve was the president of Carolina's student body, which is how many of us came to know her. But the more we got to know her, the more we understood what an extraordinary person she was, and how broadly and deeply she touched the lives of people in Chapel Hill and beyond.

Eve's death represents for us a terrible, incomprehensible loss. She was a person who embodied what is beautiful in this world, and it was a joy to know her. Her having been taken from us rips from us our greatest hopes and our greatest dreams and our greatest aspirations for what the world might become someday.

We are diminished by the loss of Eve, and we know it.

We mourn this day, but we will carry on. We will soldier on. We have Eve's memory and spirit to help us carry on. But we will always remember Eve; we will always cherish Eve; and Eve will always be with us in Chapel Hill, to challenge us with her beauty and grace, her intelligence and charm, her compassion and idealism.

Eve's spirit will challenge us to be a place where youth can flourish and hope can endure and evil will be forever banished. And although we cannot replace Eve, we do know that she was a person who mattered in this world by the work she did, and she was destined to do great things. Rather than have those things remain undone, each of us can

(continued on Page 3)

Karin Michel

Duties: Karin Michel began working with the Chapel Hill Public Library in May 1998 and is now Head of Youth Services. She coordinates the Youth Services Division and plays a major role in selecting books for the children and youth collections.

Karin plans the children's and teen program schedule and leads several programs, including a Spanish language storytime, the Teen Book Club and the popular Summer Reading Program.

One of the goals of the Youth Services Division is to serve children and teens with respect and make sure their needs are met. Karin has helped to make library information more accessible to the younger generation through the children and teen pages on the library website and other resources.

Karin says her job is fun and rewarding. She enjoys building the collection and talking with teens or children who have enjoyed books she's recommended and come to her for more suggestions. She also enjoys interacting with people from all over the world. She speaks Spanish fluently and helped translate information on the library website into Spanish.

Personal: Karin received an MLS degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and has undergraduate degrees in Spanish and International Studies, influenced by her travels around the world during her childhood. When she was a child, her family lived in countries including Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, India, Spain and Germany.

Karin enjoys reading, especially teen fiction and fantasy and Australian authors, and enjoys watching movies and television shows.

Value in the Spotlight

SOCIAL EQUITY

advocacy • balanced • fair • appreciation of diversity
communicative • compassionate • sharing



Melanie Miller photo

Her husband, Alex May, is a grocery team leader for Whole Foods, and they live in Efland with two dogs and three cats. They like to hike along the Eno with the dogs.

Our Value: "We have a lot of cultural diversity to celebrate in Chapel Hill, and we take advantage of the fact that Karin speaks Spanish fluently. Karin and her staff maintain a collection of materials that is culturally rich and plan special events representative of many countries and ethnicities."

— Kathy Thompson, Library Director

COMING UP

March 20: Lunch and Learn: Spring Wellness Program Kickoff

March 21: Good Friday (Town holiday)

March 26: Public Forum on Town Budget, 7 p.m., Town Hall Council Chamber

April 10: Lunch and Learn: Blue Urban Bikes

April 24: Lunch and Learn: Eating and Exercising for a Healthier Me

May 14: Public Forum on Town Budget, 7 p.m., Town Hall Council Chamber



Bring the family for an exciting egg hunt, children's entertainment and a visit from the Easter Bunny from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15, at Homestead Community Park, 100 Northern Park Drive.

In Brief



Sparky (**Kenny Dixon**, Fire) was a crowd favorite at the Feb. 28 Carolina Hurricanes hockey game. Sparky was

there as a guest of Hurricanes mascot Stormy as part of Public Safety Appreciation Night.



The Chapel Hill Police Department is saddened to announce the passing of Police K-9 **KC**, who passed away at the age of seven from cancer. KC was the faithful

partner of **Gabe Shinn** (Police) for the past five years. The Police Department relies on public donations to purchase K-9's and is grateful to the Kiwanis Club for donating the funds to purchase KC.

"I want to express this community's thanks and continued confidence in the excellent job that the Chapel Hill Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Brian Curran, has done in this investigation. It has been handled with thoroughness and professionalism, but I hope people understand that this is the way Chapel Hill's department works day in and day out. We are fortunate to have a stellar group of men and women who are so committed and so competent."

— Mayor Kevin Foy



TOWNtalk is produced by the Communications and Public Affairs Department
Editorial/Graphics: Catherine Lazorko,
Melanie Miller

Blue Urban Bikes

Town employees will have an opportunity to learn more about the Blue Urban Bikes program at a Lunch and Learn program on Thursday, April 10. Employees are encouraged to use the bikes as an alternative to getting around town or for recreational use as part of the Town's Wellness program.

Employees will have free access to the bicycles at Town Hall, but must join the larger Blue Bike program to use bicycles in other locations. Community users pay a \$10 annual membership fee and can check out bicycles from various hubs located throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Information: www.blueurbanbikes.org



Above, left-right, **Camelia Brooks-Brooks** (Human Resource Development) and **Katie Riedl** (Finance) learn about the Blue Urban Bikes at Town Hall from **Alison Carpenter** and **Chris Richmond**.

Protect yourself from identity theft by bringing confidential papers to the Shred-A-Thon to be shredded and recycled. Residents of Orange County can bring their confidential papers to one of three Shred-A-Thons:

- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at University Mall parking lot
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at the Eubanks Road Park and Ride Lot
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at Orange High School in Hillsborough.

The Solid Waste Department, Chapel Hill Police Department and Orange County Sheriff's Department are working together to put on these events.

Employee wellness programs can help you stay fit and healthy. The Human Resource Development Department invites all employees to the spring "Step 4 Your Health" Wellness Program Kickoff. This program is designed to help employees become more active and develop healthier lifestyles.

At the kickoff event, employees will learn about how they can earn wellness points, enroll in Weight Watchers and receive cash incentives for participating in the program.

The Lunch and Learn series continues with the following topics:

- March 13: Long Term Care Planning
- March 20: Spring Wellness Program Kickoff
- April 10: Blue Urban Bikes Kickoff
- April 24: Eating and Exercising for a Healthier Me
- May 22: Taking My Medicine to Stay Healthy
- June 26: Controlling My Cholesterol

Come out for **Walking Wednesdays!** Meet at 12:05 p.m. outside the ground floor entrance on the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. side of Town Hall. Earn 25 "Wellness Points" for the Town's "Step 4 Your Health!" program each Wednesday you walk. Just come when you can — you don't have to walk every Wednesday.

Suggest a new tag line for the Parks and Recreation Department! The tag line could be a sentence, phrase, acronym, and should incorporate values including quality of life, stewardship of our natural environment, fun, active lifestyles, sustainability, pride in the community, or professionalism. Submit your entry by March 31 to parksrec@townofchapelhill.org for your chance to receive a prize (probably a gift card).

TOWNtalk, a publication for and about Town of Chapel Hill employees, is issued monthly September through June. It is printed on recycled paper. Please recycle with white paper.



Published by:
Town of Chapel Hill
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org or (919) 968-2743

Compliments



Scott McMullan wrote to thank **Doug Atwater** (Public Works) for making a great effort to return a cellphone that was lost on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Atwater found the cellphone and called the most recently dialed numbers on it to locate the owner. "Mr. Atwater was not only conscientious about his work, but about his fellow man...He made my day, my week, my month, and my year."

Stephen Baines (Transit) received thanks from Latasha Jones for great service. He saw her running down Franklin Street, waited for her to board the bus and then waited for her to get seated before pulling off.

Jey Barbour expressed gratitude to **Rich Coane** (Transit) for returning to the Southern Village parking lot to pick up basketball tickets left in the car, and getting them back to the game in time for the tipoff. "It is an example of kindness and caring that exemplifies true character and an excellent sense of customer service."

Bryn Smith wrote to thank **Public Works** crews for maintenance work along Bolin Creek Greenway. "I'm very glad to see all of the preventative maintenance work that has been done lately along the trail."

David Harper complimented **Annie Sharpe** (Transit) for her positive attitude on the NS Route. He was "pleasantly surprised by the niceness of this driver."

Ronald Stinnett (Transit) was commended by Faye Johnson for excellent service and for going above and beyond to be friendly and professional. "It is always a pleasure to ride with Ronald after stressful day!"

Lionel Utley (Transit) was complimented by Mr. Houston for providing superb service and having a great attitude. Utley calmly avoided an accident as a car pulled right out in front of the bus. "I felt very safe with him driving."

In Memory *(continued)*

look to pick up a piece of the work that Eve did, and to do the work she would have done, the way she would have done it.

My colleagues on the council and I have been a part of the sorrow of our community, and we have reached out to Eve's family and to our colleagues on campus and beyond. We have extended to Chancellor Moeser our deepest sympathy to the campus community, and we have sought to comfort everyone in our town. Each of us has suffered, individually and collectively, a harm that is deep and piercing.

Yesterday, my wife Nancy and I attended Eve's memorial service at her hometown in Athens, Georgia. We had the opportunity to meet Eve's mother, Teresa, her father, Bob, and her brother, Andrew. We told them how much Chapel Hill valued Eve and how heartsick all of us are.

Eve's family was very gracious, and even under the burden of such surpassing grief thanked us,

and all of you for your thoughts and your support.

Athens and Chapel Hill are now forever bound. We are bound by the thread of the life of a lovely young woman who touched us as she graced this world.

Please join me in a moment of silence to remember Eve; but I hope that this moment will resonate around the world, and that our moment will awaken this world with our cry of grief at this senseless death.

I would also like to call attention this evening to the assistance that is available to everyone in our community who is coping with this tragedy and who needs assistance. Our town has a crisis unit, housed in our police department, that is ready to help, and I ask you please to call them at 968-2806 to seek that help if you need it. Contact information is available on the Town website or by calling Town Hall.



Employee Forum

The budget season is now in full swing. All employees are encouraged to keep abreast of their departments budgetary needs and also to keep themselves informed of the Town-wide budget and strategic planning issues by either attending the public meeting of the Town Council or viewing the recorded session of those meetings, which are available on the Town of Chapel Hill's website. For information on viewing these recorded sessions, please contact your departments Employee Forum representative (listed in January *TOWNtalk*).

Some employees have expressed an interest in checking their town email from a remote computer, such as from home or if they are on vacation. Employees should first check with their departments to make sure they have approval to check emails outside of work, and if given approval, check with the IT Department for instructions on accessing their emails remotely.

The Employee forum meets on the second Thursday of every month. We welcome discussion suggestions, topics of employee interest, and topics of concern to all employees.

New Employees Jan. 1 – March 3, 2008

Lynne Wade (Human Resource Development — Secretary/Receptionist)
Nicole Mazyck (Finance — Housing Budget Officer)
Ryan Mickels (Planning — Planner)
Mark Agosto (Transit — Mechanic)
Kenneth Pennoyer (Finance — Director Business Management)
Frances Russell (Human Resource Development — Assistant Director Human Resource Development)

Retiring Employees

Bobby Pearson (Transit)
 Effective March 1, 2008
Eugene Farrar (Public Works)
 Effective April 1, 2008

Basel Sellars (Public Works)
 Effective April 1, 2008

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS to *TOWNtalk*! The next deadline is March 31 for the April issue, distributed on April 11 with the biweekly payroll. Send submissions to publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org or call 968-2743.

Help Conserve Water!

Stormwater Division Provides Rain Barrels

Chapel Hill's Stormwater Management Division is sponsoring a rain barrel sale and H₂O! Education Fair on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eubanks Road Park and Ride Lot. Two styles of rain barrels will be offered and may be pre-ordered, with payment and pick up required on the day of the event. Hillsborough's Mark Ray will sell 55-gallon rain barrels for \$65 each. Rain Water Solutions' 65-gallon rain barrels will cost \$90. Please e-mail Wendy Smith at wwsmith@townofchapelhill.org to pre-order. Pre-orders are limited to two per household due to limited quantities available. Vendors will demonstrate how to set up the rain barrels on April 5.

The accompanying education fair will teach people about composting, watershed issues, rain gardens, waterwise landscaping, and how we can improve our water quality, maintain streamside buffers for clean water and healthy creeks, and prepare for hurricanes. Free low-flow showerheads will be given out by OWASA to their customers.

A one-inch rain produces 623 gallons of runoff from every 1,000 square feet of impervious surface, such as a roof. This stormwater is sometimes directed into vegetation where it can infiltrate the ground, but most of it quickly runs off into the nearest storm drain or creek. Runoff washes nutrients, sediment, litter, automotive fluids and other

*Update
as of March 12*

- ◆ Lakes reach 57% full
- ◆ 10 months water supply remaining
- ◆ Drought far from over

pollutants from yards, parking lots and streets into local streams and on into Jordan Lake. Properly set up rain barrels can help residents slow the flow of runoff during storms, infiltrate water into the ground during non-storm periods, and give residents a water supply for outdoor and gardening needs.

— Wendy Smith (Stormwater)

We're all in this



Conserve water now.

A message from Orange Water and Sewer Authority.

Keep on Swimmin'

Thanks to Parks and Recreation staff for conserving water but still making it possible for swimmers to continue using the Community Center pool by working hard to have the well at the TOC certified as potable drinking water, cleaning and sanitizing the Town's flush truck to carry 2,200 gallons of this clean water and developing a delivery sched-

ule to replace water lost at the Community Center Pool due to evaporation, splashing and weekly pool filter cleaning.

Public Works staff is investigating the possibility of using an old well at the Hargraves Center to provide the same support for the AD Clark Pool if that is necessary this summer.

— Butch Kisiiah (Parks & Recreation)

Spread the Word!

Are you near a good location to post a Water Conservation Poster? Please help us spread the word that we need to save water by posting important water conservation messages on billboards, inside bathrooms or near water fountains. To request posters, contact Catherine Lazorko at 969-5055 or clazorko@townofchapelhill.org.