



In the Spotlight

Highlighting Exceptional Employees

Larry Tucker Senior Engineering Coordinator

When Larry Tucker began working for the Town more than 32 years ago, building inspectors, engineers and planners worked closely in a small, collaborative team. This former model may return as the Town considers new ways to organize staff to better serve the community's needs for inspections, code and zoning enforcement, and planning and engineering reviews.

Back then, the team of surveyors, inspectors and planners worked from the third floor of the original Town Hall building on Columbia Street. When the engineering division was created in the 1970s, Chapel Hill was a growing college town. Larry notes that street miles have grown from 95 when he started with the town to 165 today. "Today our focus is different, as so much of the infrastructure is already in place. Growth now occurs as infill development."

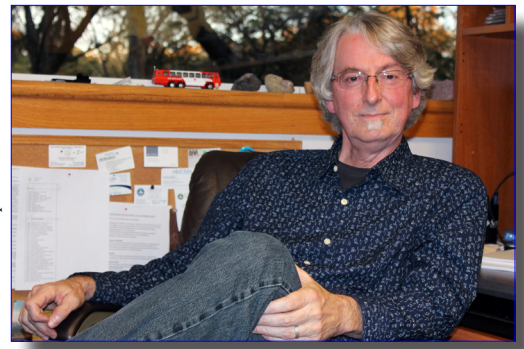
Having grown up on a tobacco farm in eastern North Carolina, Larry left home to pursue architecture study at UNC-Charlotte but changed his major to earth sciences. After graduating, one of his first jobs was working

on the Falls Lake Dam on the Neuse River with a geotechnical consulting firm. He immediately felt he found the right career in public service. "I wanted to give back, help make government work."

Today he serves as the Town engineering representative on sidewalk and bike path projects, and various parks and recreation, public works, parking services, and Chapel Hill Transit projects. He ensures developers meet the Town's design and construction regulations. On his journeys around town, he can view any number of roads, bridges, retaining walls, or stormwater structures, confident of their quality and test of time. "It's reassuring that they're holding strong after many years," he says.

Of his tenure with the Town, Larry reflects: "I never thought I'd stay here as long as I have, but I really enjoy my job and most of all the pleasure derived from working with such a dedicated, supportive group of co-workers and friends."

Value in the Spotlight Safety



Catherine Lazorko photo

Larry and his wife Kat live in Bynum with two dogs and two cats, and a flower garden out front. In his free time, he enjoys cooking Indian cuisine, traveling and serves as a live performance recording engineer for various bands including the Old Ceremony and Megafaun, among others in the Rock and Americana genre.

—Story By Catherine Lazorko

RESPECT Values

- Responsibility
- Equity
- Safety
- Professionalism
- Ethics
- Communication
- Teamwork

