



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees



May/June 2014
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www.townofchapelhill.org

Summer Reading Kick-off Party

Summer is the time to dip into the pool, get a dip of ice cream, and of course, dip into a great book. The Chapel Hill Public Library will once again help readers of all ages keep their brains engaged with its annual Summer Reading Program. A kick-off party is scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. Friday, June 13, on the Library grounds.

The community is invited to stop by and enjoy family entertainment by Baron Von Rumblebuss, grab a bite from a food truck, and climb on board a fire truck, a bus, and other Town vehicles. For kids, there will also be face painting, hula hooping, and even a chance at arm wrestling Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, Police Chief Chris Blue, and Library Director Susan Brown. This event, and the entire Summer Reading Program, is made possible through the generous support of the Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library, who are planning a special book sale at the event.

This year's program incorporates S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) curriculum, with a youth theme of "Fizz, Boom, Read!" and an adult theme of "Literary Elements."

Young readers can enjoy 10 weeks of story times, book clubs, and special performances, including Grey Seal Puppets, Birdman Dave, and Rags to Riches Theatre. Prizes like buttons, bookmarks, stickers, and books will be awarded for all stages of reading. Teens can look forward to book clubs, movies, and prize drawings for popular spots around town. And as in the past five years, adult readers can read, win prizes, and attend special programs like the summer movie series.

For more information, visit the library's website at chapelhillpubliclibrary.org, call 919-968-2778, or stop by any service desk in the Library.

Matt Sullivan

Emergency Management Coordinator

Matt Sullivan has held many different positions since he started at the Town in 1988 – police officer, firefighter, narcotics investigator, D.A.R.E. officer, crisis counselor, police legal adviser, interim executive director of planning and sustainability, and as of two months ago was named emergency management coordinator.

"This is a great position because it combines my experiences and interests."

His first job was as a public safety officer, while he was finishing a bachelor's in political science degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. Back then, officers were patrolling the streets and fighting fires. During an assignment in the Police Department's Crime Prevention and youth services unit, Matt returned to UNC and earned a master's degree in social work. He left the Town for three years to coordinate UNC-CH's substance abuse treatment and education program on campus. Then he came back to the Police Department to work at the crisis unit. In 2002 he enrolled in the NC Central University Evening Law Program. Eventually, he was hired as the department's legal adviser.

Career highlights include being named Police Officer of the Year in 1994, receiving the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work's Distinguished Alumni Award, arguing before the NC Supreme Court in defense of the Town's towing ordinance earlier, working on bridging the gap between building inspections and planning services, and most of all "just being afforded the opportunity to serve the Town and my community in a wide variety of roles. Our work touches so many lives, it is rewarding to be able to look

Value in the Spotlight

Teamwork



Catherine Lazorko photo

back and see that what I have done has had a positive impact on people and their situations. I saw this particularly in my work in the Police Crisis Unit working for Jim Huegerich."

Matt's paternal grandparents are first and second generation Irish from South Boston. Originally from the Boston suburbs, Matt's father's job with General Electric took his family to many places, including Puerto Rico. Matt's family arrived in Chapel Hill when he was 14. He attended Chapel Hill High School with several other current Town employees including Chris Blue, Lisa Edwards and Bryan Walker. Matt and his wife Kathy have two children, Matthew, 16, and Jordan, 12. In his free time, Matt enjoys working in his yard and reading. He currently is reading Richard Rohr.

—Story by Catherine Lazorko

COMING UP

Friday, June 13: Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Party, 2 p.m., Chapel Hill Public Library

Friday, June 20: Employee Appreciation Day and Service Award Ceremony, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Chapel Hill High School

Saturday, June 21: Summer Fest, 2–6 p.m., The Plaza at 140 West Franklin St.



Fire personnel including Assistant Fire Marshal Darryl Rimmer received books on World Book Night, a celebration of reading, on April 23.

In Brief

Zakia Alam (Business Management) has been promoted to the position of Purchasing and Contracts Manager. Zakia is a Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer and has been working in the Purchasing Office since 2003, most recently as the Interim Purchasing and Contracts Manager. Zakia has done an outstanding job in maintaining the Purchasing and Contracts functions during a difficult time and her leadership and dedication have been an asset to the department and the Town.



Jon Hill (Library) and Emily welcomed a new family member on April 9. Jackson Hallett Hill weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz.

Amy Oland (Business Management) has been promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Business Management. Amy has been with the Town since 2004. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a recent graduate of the UNC School of Government Municipal Administration Course.



Jeff Ryan (Fire) and Lauren announced the arrival of Luke Thomas Ryan on April 28.

Luke weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. Mother and baby are doing fine.



Town employees enjoyed a run through downtown Chapel Hill and neighborhoods during the Tar Heel Ten Miler on April 26. The event benefits the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA's We Build People Campaign.



Congratulations to **Jacob Sinkiewicz** (Fire) and his family for their new addition. Jackson Timothy Sinkiewicz was born on

March 6 and weighed 9 lbs. 9 oz.

Celebrate National Trails Day with Chapel Hill's newest trail! A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fan Branch/Morgan Creek trail connection will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 7. More information: tinyurl.com/pk96yc9

Residents are excited about the new trail. Jim Lev said, "This is a great contribution to the joy and wellbeing of the population. The work done opens a safe opportunity for all to enjoy a perfect exercise and simple strolling trail. Congratulations and many thanks on a work well done!"

Take the Wellness@Work **Fruits and Vegetables Challenge!** Register by July 7 to receive quick tips and newsletters. Log your quick tips through Aug. 3. The leading scorers will be entered into drawings for prizes including gift cards to Weaver Street Market, Kitchenworks, and more! Watch your email next week for more information.

Chapel Hill Transit provided transportation for the Southeast Valor Games, a national Paralympic sport competition for veterans and active-duty service members with disabilities. Thanks to **Akalema Pherribo** and **Jessie Cameron**, who helped transport participants to event sites around the Triangle. A special thanks to **Shanika Nickerson** and **Richard Roberts** for helping coordinate the effort.



Thinking about buying a home? The Community Home Trust is offering a **Homebuyer Education Class** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 7. The class is free but registration is required. Contact Deanna Carson at dcarson@communityhometrust.org or 919-967-1545 ext. 301 for more information.



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R.E.S.P.E.C.T. – What does it look like to you? You are not only important to the Town, you are essential! You are the face of Town government.

This month's "Ask the Ombuds" focus is on **Teamwork**, defined: We participate in a co-operative work environment in order to support each other in our service to the community. We encourage an environment that fosters innovation and creativity.

According to this definition, **Teamwork** requires a work environment that values and invites employee input, no matter what their job or role in the town might be, a place which supports each employee in effectively doing their jobs, and where employees are built into both internal and external teams to accomplish the routine and big things and to create community.

Teamwork was one of the strengths of working for the town identified by employees in the Employee Engagement Survey this past Spring. "Most employees believe Town staff functions as a Team."

According to employees who have shared their stories with the Ombuds office, most believe that **Teamwork** is evident in two areas: 1) on a day-to-day basis their internal team works well, providing top quality services; and 2) when a big event occurs the interdepartmental teams that are formed work very well.

However, employees define **Teamwork** as more than just functioning well as a team on tasks. **Teamwork** involves the creation of an environment where employees are welcomed and valued for who they are and are recognized for their contribution to the job and to the team. From the stories shared, employees see their value demonstrated when they are informed about goals and changes, their input is sought in decision making, and their ideas about day-to-day functioning of the group are encouraged. And perhaps most importantly, employees say that **Teamwork** is most evident when work is a place that is fun and there are regular opportunities, both formal and informal, to celebrate both team achievements and the unique contributions and gifts of each employee.

Employees have repeatedly made it clear, **Teamwork** is a necessary foundation in the workplace, not only because it increases the effectiveness of what we do, when the Town RESPECT value of **Teamwork** is demonstrated, this is a place where they want to work because it is a place where they feel valued for what they do and who they are and it is a place that is fun to work.

Teamwork is Collaboration!

Compliments



Chris Blue (Transit) was complimented by Cheryl for being pleasant and on time, and by Jasmine Howard for being friendly and a good driver.

Larry Benton (Transit) was thanked by Maggie Burns for being courteous and pleasant. "It just makes my day better when I know there is a driver that looks out for us."

Janice Hooker, Keith Caraway, Michelle Sykes-Parker and Alexander Street (all Transit) were commended by Jequetta Jackson for always being friendly and courteous.

Antwan Riggsbee (Transit) was praised by Lorraine Aragon, Angeline Warren and Dale Hutchinson for being an outstanding driver. "He is always prompt, responsible and reliable."

Michael Hayhurst (Transit) was thanked by Carolyn Shomaker for being pleasant, courteous and helpful. "You have a great employee there."

Deborah Yancey (Transit) was complimented by Sheri Davidz for being kind, helpful and always on time.

Mike Purdie (Transit) was complimented by Sean Jareck for being cheerful and personable.

Greg Alston (Transit) was commended by Darlene Rodriguez for making bus rides pleasant and for being an excellent driver.

Deborah Yancey (Transit) was commended by Yvette Underwood-Torres for being pleasant and helpful. "This lady always makes it a priority to get us to work on time."

Rodney Bigelow (Transit) was complimented by Holt for being friendly, professional and a good driver.

Nancy Kiplinger thanked the **Police Department** for helping her locate a missing purse.

Jonathan Barbee (Police) was commended by Sarah Crosby for assisting a person in distress who was having difficulty calling 911.

Robert Earhart (Transit) was praised by Tessie Ingram for being friendly and a good driver. "Thanks! Mr. Robert Earhart and Chapel Hill Transit for a great ride to work every day!!!"

Lori Evans (Police) was thanked by Chris Blue (Police) for assisting in the creation of a practical exercise for the police legal advisory process.

Kara Bruno (Police) was commended by Sheleathea Quick (Police) for obtaining fingerprints that were used to identify a suspect in a break-in. "Way to go Kara!!!"

Alban Foulser Tweeted his appreciation for **Derrick Dula** (Transit). "This bus driver is so inspirational!"

Another Tweet from Jason H. thanking **Carl Walker** (Transit): "huge shoutout to driver of J 1090 for noticing I was about to cross the street—and waiting an extra min so I could board!"

Tiffanie Tapp (Transit) was thanked by He Du for being patient and very nice. "It really touched my heart."

John Kissinger commended **Clark Dickens** and **Paul Bell** (both Police) for performing well during the Officer Survival training program in April.

Lana Simons and Tom Austin (both Transit) were thanked by Tong Gui for waiting for her to transfer between buses.

Leanne Mikels (Police) was thanked by Rick Fahrer (Police) for checking on his welfare after a late meeting.

Paula Noell thanked the **Stormwater Division** for keeping storm drains on Evergreen Drive clear.

Dave Deming (Transit) and other Chapel Hill Transit operators were commended by Jerry Salak for being congenial and helpful.

The Public Works construction crew was thanked by William Meade for repairing a sidewalk in a timely manner.

Jeff Clark (Police) thanked **Andrew Smith, Scott Taylor, Sheleathea Quick and Kenneth Lennon** (all Police) for assisting with a Verbal Judo session for Customer Service Training.

S. Weldon Brown thanked **the Town** for holding the Shred-A-Thon in April. The Police Department co-sponsors Shred-A-Thons every year in April and October.

The Chapel Hill Public Library was commended by Kate Douglas Torrey for holding insurance enrollment sessions in the computer lab this winter. "The library is the 'go to' place for information!"

The Stormwater Management crew was thanked by Martha and David Dill for clearing a creek channel off Cleland Drive.

Honoring Valued Employees

Employee Appreciation Luncheon and W. Calvin Horton Service Award

The annual Employee Appreciation Day celebration from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 20, at Chapel Hill High School offers us all a chance to have fun and recognize excellence among our co-workers. There will be games, prizes, and a dunk tank!

This year's event will feature the noontime announcement of the nominees for the W. Calvin Horton Award, one of the highest honors the Town bestows upon an employee. Town Manager Roger Stancil will announce his selection of the award winner. The nominees are **Scott Banks** (Parking Services), **Shelton Burnette** (Public Works), **Jeff Clark** (Police), **Loryn Clark** (Planning),

Lisa Edwards (Fire), **Sabrina Garcia** (Police), **Coco Hall** (Business Management), **Amy Harvey** (Communications and Public Affairs), **Andre Jones** (Public Works), **Chelsea Laws** (Public Works), **Roy Richardson** (Housing), **Mike Taylor** (Public Works), **Angie Turner** (Public Works), **Phil Williams** (Public Works); and group nomination for the Library Youth Services staff of **Karin Michel, Krystal Black, Frances Rapley, Beth Wright, Pat Heath, Susan Smialowicz, Stacey Lunden, Debra Fagan, Tisha Woo, Shannon Harris, Stephen Ashley and Ellen Decker.**

Nominees have contributed to the success of our community and reflect the Town's values of RESPECT. They were recognized for going above and beyond expectations, setting positive examples in the workplace, and earning the respect of their peers.



The Cal Horton Award Committee and Town Manager Roger L. Stancil cordially invite you to attend the
W. Calvin Horton Service Award Ceremony
to honor award nominees and the awardee held during the Employee Appreciation Luncheon

Noon Friday, June 20, 2014
Chapel Hill High School
1709 High School Road
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Past award recipients include **Colleen Lanigan** (2012), **Nate Davis** (2011), **Maggie Burnett** (2010), **Jim Huegerich** (2009) and **Larry Stroud** (2008).

Nominations are reviewed by a committee of Town employees who forward their recommendations to the Town Manager. Employees who served on this year's award committee are **Chris Blue, Ralph Karpinos, Sheryl Sherman, Colleen Lanigan, Nate Davis and Andrea Judge.**

Volunteers are needed for Employee Appreciation Day. To help with set-up, lunch or games, sign up for a two-hour shift by sending an email to Amanda Fletcher at afletcher@townofchapelhill.org. Please check first with your supervisor.

Wellness Stories: Paul Moss

Paul Moss, Fire Captain, joined the Wellness at Work Tobacco Cessation Program in June 2012, and was able to quit smoking shortly thereafter. At the time, he was smoking a pack a day and had been doing so since he was 18 years old.

When asked why he wanted to quit smoking, he replied that he had been thinking about it for a while, and when he heard about the Wellness@Work Tobacco Cessation Program, the timing just worked for him.

According to Paul, he was going through a divorce, which actually reduced his stress level. Also, he realized that he was spending at least \$5/day on cigarettes, and it would be a way to save a lot of money.

Being newly single, he discovered that the women he met didn't want to date smokers. Because of that, he met the woman he is in a relationship with, who is also a non-smoker and said she was glad



she didn't meet him when he was smoking.

Last, but not least, the Wellness@Work Tobacco Cessation Program made it easier for him by providing access to free medications, knowledge of how to use them, and support throughout his efforts.

Since Paul quit smoking over a year and a half ago, his health has improved. When he gets a cold, it doesn't last as long. He can taste his food better, and his sense of smell is improved.

His advice is that you have to want to quit, but when you do, the Wellness@Work program can help.

Wellness@Work offers a Tobacco Cessation Program for Town of Chapel Hill Employees. Patches, gum, and lozenges are available at no cost. You'll be investing in your health, your future, and the freedom that comes from no longer being dependent on tobacco.

—Barbara Silver, Tobacco Cessation Specialist

Ready to quit smoking?

For more information on tobacco cessation programs, call 919-445-5358, email barbara_silver@med.unc.edu or log in to the Wellness@Work Portal at chapelhillwellnessatwork.org to make an appointment.

