



# In the Spotlight

*Highlighting Exceptional Employees*

## 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 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

### Value in the Spotlight

## Teamwork



Catherine Lazorko photo

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

#### **RESPECT Values**

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

