



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

February 2015
Vol. 11, No. 6

www.townofchapelhill.org

Our Three Winners

By Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt

Like you, I have a broken heart. The entire world has joined Chapel Hill in mourning the loss of our three young citizens — bright and shining stars — who were taken from us in a senseless shooting on February 10. They are Deah Barakat, his wife Yusor Abu-Salha, and her sister, Razan Abu-Salha.

We are a welcoming community full of compassionate and peace-loving people. The three souls we lost exemplified that in the best of ways. They touched the lives of refugees of the Syrian Civil War and provided free dental supplies and food to homeless people in the Triangle. The generous lives of Our Three Winners, as their family refers to them (see <https://www.facebook.com/ourthreewinners>), can sustain the truth about who we are as a community.

And while we are home to these beautiful souls, we also accept the painful reality that we are home to the man who committed this heinous act. With the recent parallel inquiry launched by the FBI, as well as our existing partnerships with state and federal authorities, I

continue to have confidence the Chapel Hill Police Department is investigating this crime thoroughly. We are deeply concerned about the potential role of anti-Muslim bias. We must seek answers while acknowledging the high burden necessary to prove such bias in a way that is satisfying to the legal system. No matter the outcome of this case, we can hold onto who we are as a community and who we want to become.

I respect the very real fear that members of the Islamic community feel, not just in Chapel Hill but also around the country. The work is never done to ensure Chapel Hill is a place for everyone, a place where Muslim lives matter. But that community, the one that gathered at UNC-Chapel Hill on Wednesday night for as far as the eye could see, that is the community that will honor the legacy of Deah, Yusor and Razan.

We have a lot of work to do to heal, and I hope you will join me. I have met with CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad and others in our regional Islamic community and am planning more visits in the weeks ahead. These deaths represent an incomprehensible loss. I believe we can find strength by acknowledging the fear and



Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha, and Razan Abu-Salha

outrage that this act instills, coming together to ask difficult questions, and lifting up all people in our community who are hurting.

Many people are seeking ways to heal and make change. Over the last several days, I have been pleased to see so many organizations offer opportunities for participation. I hope that you will find a way to stand alongside the Muslim community and honor their memory by continuing to spread the love and joy of life they exemplified. In this way, you will then exemplify the Chapel Hill values they helped create and sustain.

Please keep the family and friends of Deah, Yusor and Razan in your thoughts and prayers.



Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt addressed thousands attending the vigil for the three shooting victims on Feb. 11.

COMING UP

Monday, Feb. 23: Stream monitor workshop, 7–9 p.m., NC Botanical Garden. wsmith@townofchapelhill.org

Wednesday, Feb. 25: Weight Watchers at Work Open House, 11:30 a.m., Hargraves Center. Information: 919-968-2796 or llackey@email.unc.edu

Tuesday, March 10: Come Learn With Us: Affordable Housing, 5 p.m., Town Hall

Friday, March 27: ConvergeNC Southern Music Festival, 6 p.m., Plaza at 140 West Franklin St.

Saturday, March 28: Community Egg Hunt, 11:30 a.m., River Park, Hillsborough

Friday, April 3: Town Holiday. Most municipal offices will be closed.

In Brief



Jennifer Phillips (CaPA) and her husband Scott welcomed a new addition to their family, Juniper

Maeve, on Jan. 12. Juniper weighed 5 lbs. 4 oz. and was 19 inches long. She was a little bit early, but is doing very well.



Norman Fullerton "Top" Jackson, 94, peacefully passed away on Jan. 7 at his home in Fearington Village. One of Top's greatest sources of

pride was his service as a volunteer with Chapel Hill's Fire Department. At his death, he was recognized as the oldest living volunteer firefighter in Chapel Hill.



An effort by local law enforcement to honor a former officer prompted an outpouring of support from police officers across the country.

Tom Mitchell was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2011 and retired from the

Police Department after 16 years of service. He was placed into hospice care in December 2014.

Former colleague **Eric Dallin** (Police) requested memorabilia from police departments across the state to bring the police department to Mitchell. The response has been overwhelming. The department has received everything from patches and badges to blankets and helmets. Word has spread nationwide, and law enforcement officials from across the country have sent in mementos for Mitchell.

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

Brian Litchfield (Transit) says, "Thanks to everyone who helped with the mid-year inventory. In case you missed out on the fun — here are a couple of pictures!"



Snowstorm Inspires Teamwork

"Thank you to everyone for your excellent, professional service. What a Great Team!"

—Town Manager Roger Stancil



Sign up for the Tar Heel 10 Miler or Fleet Feet 4 Miler by Feb. 28 and receive a discount! The races on April 18 benefit UNC Lineberger Cancer Center and Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA's "We Build People" Campaign.

To receive a discount of \$8 for the Tar Heel 10 Miler or \$4 for the Fleet Feet 4 Miler, register online at www.TarHeel10miler.com. Enter your personal information and select your race, then choose "Town of Chapel Hill" from the list of groups. Use the promo code "WELLNESSATWORK" at checkout to receive the discount. Information: llackey@email.unc.edu or 919-968-2796

To connect with the Town Team contact **Emily Powell** (Fire) at 336-508-0636 or epowell@townofchapelhill.org. This virtual team helps you connect with others, meet up for runs and provide support and encouragement.

Volunteers Needed! Do you enjoy the annual Employee Appreciation event? Help plan the next one! The Employee Appreciation Committee needs volunteers.

On Employee Appreciation Day, we all come together to share a meal, play bingo, shoot some hoops and just have fun with fellow employees. The 2015 event will be held on June 5 at the Friday Center. The W. Calvin Horton Service Award, which recognizes distinguished service, will also be presented during the Employee Appreciation event.

Committee positions include catering, awards and presentations, games and activities, community outreach for gifts and prizes, publicity, setup and strike and volunteer recruitment.

For more information, email Amanda Fletcher at afletcher@townofchapelhill.org.

SMT Notes

SMT notes are posted on the Intranet within a day or two of the SMT meetings. Access the notes from the intranet at <http://intranet> by clicking on "Published Documents" on the left-hand side of the page, then clicking on "SMT Meeting Notes" under the "Teams" column.

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.



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



The Dream and You

Last month Town employees gathered for the 17th Annual Employee Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Former Mayor Howard Lee was the keynote speaker, and he asked two questions: "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" After sharing with those gathered how Dr. King inspired him and how Dr. King's dream of freedom and sacrifice positioned him to become mayor of Chapel Hill, Mayor Lee challenged those present to find a way to pay forward the freedom that Dr. King's dream and sacrifice helped ensure for all people.

Mayor Lee's charge is consistent with the Town's mission. Each and every one of us has a role in paying forward Dr. King's dream of freedom for all, each and every one of us is essential!

Do you feel valued and respected as a Town employee? What can you or are you doing to value and respect those who work with you?

Does what you do day in and day out help achieve the Mission and Vision of the Town of Chapel Hill? What can you or are you doing to help those who work with you achieve the Mission and Vision of the Town?

Do you believe that you can influence your work and how you do it? What can you or are you doing to help those who work with you believe that they can influence their work and how they do it?

Is this a place where you want to work, look forward to working, and feel good at the end of the day for what you have contributed? What can you or are you doing to help those who work with you want to work here, look forward to working here, and feel good about their contributions at the end of the day?

Is the Town a place where differences are seen as opportunities to see and do things even better and to build better teams? What can you or are you doing to ensure that differences are perceived as opportunities?

As a Town employee if the answer to any of these question is "no," what can you and the Town do to change it to "yes?" Your voice is essential to making the Town's Vision, Mission and Values realities. This is how the charge of Mayor Lee is paid forward: being a difference to make a difference.

— Jim Huegerich, Town Ombuds

Contact the Ombuds Office at 919-265-0806 or ombuds@townofchapelhill.org

Compliments



Lafayette Poteat (Transit) was complimented by Beth Clarke for being courteous and careful.

Richard Roberts and **Ty Edwards** (both Transit) were thanked by Linda Laubscher for assisting with a student field trip on Chapel Hill Transit buses.

Richard Bucci, Patrick Spencer, Heather Robinson and **Chris Bradley** (all Fire) were commended by Carla Motteler for presenting an educational and entertaining fire safety program at the Fire Place.

LaTonya McNair (Business Management) was complimented by Flo Miller (Manager's Office) for demonstrating Town values in her actions.

The "Leaf Team" (Public Works) was thanked by a resident for clearing sidewalks and streets of leaves.

Robert Key (Inspections) was thanked by Chapel Hill Transit for his extra effort to help complete a building permit in order for an important project to get started on time.

Compliments on the **new library catalog!**

- Loving the new catalog! Chapel Hill Public Library + librarians + staff... y'all are CRUSHIN IT!
- This website is great!
- I love it! Thank you, thank you!!!

A tweet from @_KALiforniaLove: Up early to study for my test & there is the nicest driver on the FCX. #mademyday @chtransit

Retirees since July 2014

Charles Alston (Parking Services)
Peter Barkley (Transit)
Mark Bayles (Library)
Edward Brooks (Police)
Jeffrey Clark (Police)
Carmen Cole (Transit)
Annie Edwards (Transit)
Larry Harrington (Public Works)
Henry Harris (Police)



A last trip on the NS route for Peter Barkley (Transit).

Brenda Jackson (Transit)
Rosemary Kirkpatrick (Library)
Timothy Richardson (Library)
Michael Russell (Public Works)
Susan Smialowicz (Library)
William Smith (Police)
Douglas Sutton (Fire)
Johnny Parker (Fire)
Thomas Watkins (Public Works)
Philip Williams (Public Works)

New Employees Since July 2014

James Marks (Transit)
Brandi Hunter (Transit)
Prairie Reep (Police)
Rachel Durham (Parks and Recreation)
Brandon Howell (Business Management)
Jeffrey Deluca (Mayor)
Malcolm Brown (Parks and Recreation)
Christopher Downs (Parks and Recreation)
Anna-Marie Pellett (Library)
German Barcenas (Police)
Vincent Bivona (Police)
Cole Daniels (Police)
Kevin Kuhn (Police)
Jennifer Liles (Police)
Kevin Patterson (Police)
Jeremy Sauer (Police)
Roger Chapin (Transit)
Cornelia Bridges (Transit)
Terrence Patterson (Transit)
Ernest Ray (Transit)
Jerry Williams (Transit)
Jesse Freedman (Planning and Sustainability)
David Green (Library)
Kathryn Mcmillan (Transit)
Jasmyne Turman (Public Works)
Shonessy Corbett (Transit)
Roderick Jones (Transit)
Tammy Price (Transit)

Reginald Tillman (Transit)
Cheonna Boyd (Transit)
Thomas Dibenedetto (Planning and Sustainability)
Martha Waters (Library)
Charles Bettilyon (Transit)
Amanda Gramley (Library)
Randolph Hagans (Transit)
Richard Northam (CaPA)
Denine Mccullers (Business Management)
Carol Brown-Lopez (Transit)
Larry Demery (Transit)
Dwaain Straker (Transit)
Sharon Willis (Transit)
James Crouch (Planning and Sustainability)
Tammy Morales (HRD)
Alex Terry (Business Management)
Austin Vick (Planning and Sustainability)
William Alston (Transit)
Stephen Deberry (Transit)
Bonnie Thornton (Business Management)
Kenneth Yimbu (Transit)
Stephen Ashley (Library)
Maria Hill (Public Works)
Ricardo Crutchfield (Transit)
Gillian Gentry (Transit)
Monique Harris (Transit)
Michael Klein (Planning and Sustainability)
Jerome Newkirk (Transit)
Michael Thompson (Transit)

Recognizing Your Excellence

Who will win our Highest Employee Honor for 2015?

Nominate your outstanding co-workers for the Cal Horton Service Award! There is no greater professional honor than to be recognized by your peers for a job well done.

The W. Calvin Horton Service Award was established in 2007 with funds raised by the Foundation for a Sustainable Community, Inc., a not-for-profit charitable corporation under the auspices of the Chapel Hill – Carrboro Chamber of Commerce for just that purpose. Each year a Town of Chapel Hill Employee is selected to receive the award based on his or her distinguished service and contributions to the community.

Past winners of the Cal Horton Award are:

- CoCo Hall (Business Management), 2014
- Colleen Lanigan (Parks and Recreation), 2012
- Nate Davis (Parks and Recreation), 2011
- Maggie Burnett (Public Works), 2010
- Jim Huegerich (Ombuds), 2009
- Larry Stroud (Public Works), 2008

The nomination deadline is Thursday, March 31. Pick up a nomination form from Human Resource Development on the second floor of Town Hall or visit www.townofchapelhill.org/towntalk.

The award winner will be announced at Employee Appreciation Day on June 5 at the Friday Center.



Town Manager Roger Stancil with last year's nominees for the W. Calvin Horton Service Award. The honor was presented in June 2014 posthumously to Coco Hall, former purchasing and contracts manager. Nominees are Scott Banks, Shelton Burnette, Jeff Clark, Loryn Clark, Lisa Edwards, Sabrina Garcia, Coco Hall, Amy Harvey, Andre Jones, Chelsea Laws, Roy Richardson, Mike Taylor, Angie Turner, Phil Williams; 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.

Employees Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy

17 Years of Celebration, a Lifetime of Inspiration

The seventeenth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration was held on Friday, Jan. 16. Employees and residents gathered to share their stories and carry on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The event's keynote speaker was former Chapel Hill Mayor Howard Lee (right).



The Town of Chapel Hill Mass Choir (below left), led by **Brenda Jones** (Parking), presented several wonderful musical numbers, including "Everybody Clap Your Hands" and "Every Praise."

Winners of The Word Project poetry/lyric contest presented their poems. Read the poems in the January TOWNtalk at <http://bit.ly/196voG2>.

- 1st place – **Alonzo Jaynes** (Police) "The Dreamer"
- 2nd place – **Ross Tompkins** (Business Management) "Father to Son"
- 3rd place – **Dave Almond** (Stormwater) "Homage"
- Honorable Mention – **Jim Huegerich** (Ombuds) "I Have A Dream"

View a video of the event at <http://bit.ly/16Q8FN0>

