



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

May 2009
Vol. 5, No. 9

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

Respect: In a time when most local governments are facing layoffs and service reductions, we are weathering the economic storm so far without taking those steps. I appreciate what each of you has done in respect for each other and those we serve to make this possible. This is a Great Team, and I am proud to work with you.

Professionalism: Congratulations to **Bob Overton** and **Chris Blue** in the Police Department who will be promoted to Assistant Chief and **Jeff Clark** and **Leo Vereen** in Police who will become Captain of Patrol and Investigations, respectively. These promotions build our renewed leadership team working with Chief Curran to breathe life into our community policing, building stronger connections with the community we serve and applying problem-solving policing. Look for increased opportunities for departments to work together to make Chapel Hill a better place to live.

Teamwork: Our Economic Development Officer, **Dwight Bassett**, is carving a tribute to the national champion Tar Heels on a tree stump at the corner of Franklin and Columbia. This is a great example of working together to achieve our goals and celebrate our community. The project is a collaboration among Economic Development, Public Art, Parks and Recreation and Public Works. Go Heels, and Town!

Innovation: Kudos to **Judy Johnson** and **Phil Mason** in Planning, **Dwight Bassett** in Economic Development, **Curtis Brooks** and **Mike Taylor** in Public Works who have worked across department lines to create a new way of looking at our internal development review process. While this task force has spearheaded the process of looking at what we do and finding ways to do it better, the result is from the hard work and willingness to think about things differently from many people in many departments who participate in the review of new development projects in Town. Their hard work will pay dividends for our Town, and us.

Sam Rone

Joined Town: July 1993

Sam Rone, horticulturalist, is a dedicated member of the landscape crew and a key person in our efforts to keep Chapel Hill a beautiful place. Sam has been with the landscape division for over 15 years. During this time, he has been a key person in maintaining the Town's many public landscapes. Whether it is the landscaping at a public housing area, the medians on Fordham Boulevard, a park area or the library, Sam uses his knowledge and skills to give the landscape the care and attention it needs to reflect the pride we all have in our Town.

The Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for citizens and visitors of our community through the efforts of its Landscape Services and Parks Maintenance Division. The challenges of the job include snakes, bees, poison ivy and traffic, according to Sam, but the rewards are beautiful landscapes. His personal favorites are roses and Japanese maples.

"The commitment to our beautification efforts can be summed up in the phrase "a Town within a park," Kisiah said. "This is our vision for Chapel Hill and our honoree exemplifies the commitment to it through his leadership and teamwork as one of the division's horticulturalists and work crew leader."

Value in the Spotlight

Teamwork

cooperative • mission-focused • strength
shared decisions • consequence awareness
relationships • enhancement of resources



Sam is very active in the life of his church and his family. He is married to Tammy Rone and lives in Pittsboro.

Our Value: Parks and Recreation Director Butch Kisiah says: "Sam Rone is the kind of person who never lets you down. He cares about his work and the people he works with. Sam always gives 110 percent in everything he does. We are honored to have Sam as part of our Parks and Recreation team."

COMING UP

Friday, May 22: Public Works Week Celebration, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday, May 25: Town Holiday. Most municipal offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Monday, June 1: Registration opens for Adult Summer Reading Program at Chapel Hill Public Library

Friday June 12: Employee Appreciation Luncheon, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Chapel Hill High School.



Celebrate Public Works Week Friday, May 22!
Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. For more information,
call 969-5112 or 969-5111.

In Brief



Mike Ward (Fire) and **Ami** are the proud parents of **Abigail Faith**, who

(finally!) arrived at 12:04 a.m. on April 10 (five minutes late for her Dad's birthday). She weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.

The Third Annual **Employee Golf Tournament** was a huge success! First place went to Team 2, the Killer Bees – **Bob Godding** (Manager), **Bruce Heflin** (Manager), **Brian Curran** (Police) and **Butch Kishiah** (Parks and Recreation). Team 4 – **Traval Watkins**, **Sam Parker**, **Kirby Pinnix** and **Shelton Burnette** (Public Works) took second place. Team 1 – **Matt Lawrence**, **Clay London**, **Dan Jones** and **Charlie Powell** (all Fire) took home individual third place trophies. Special recognition goes to our first coed team, Team 5 from the Chapel Hill Library (**M.J. Goodrum**, **Kathy Thompson**, **Mark Bayles** and **Rick Wilkerson**).

Help clean up Chapel Hill and protect wildlife with a pocket ashtray! Cigarettes contain carcinogenic toxins, which can endanger wildlife. Request ashtrays from **Wendy Smith** (Stormwater) at wsmith@townofchapelhill.org or 968-2715.

For building maintenance requests, call Maintenance Operations at 969-5119 or Bob Ziemendorf at 969-5120. After hours, call 406-9078 and follow the instructions to leave a message that includes ALL of the following:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Your contact telephone number
- 3) The name of the building you are calling about
- 4) A description of the emergency

Press the number 8 to activate the pager system and the on-call mechanic will be notified.



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

Fire Safety Information Presented at Fiero de la Salud



Jaime Palacios (left), **Andrew Fuentes** (right), and **Mary Blevins** (not pictured) (all Fire) ran an information and smoke detector table at the sixth annual Fiero de la Salud (Health Fair) at St. Thomas More Church on April 19. They provided information about smoke detectors, handed out pamphlets on fire and electrical safety and gave out more than 55 smoke detectors.

Hats off to Mayor Kevin Foy for being one of the first to take the SmartCommute Challenge by riding Chapel Hill Transit to work April 15! Go Chapel Hill encourages everyone to go to www.smartcommutechallenge.com and take the Smart Commute Challenge. By agreeing to use transportation other than a single occupancy vehicle (including carpooling, biking or taking the bus), at least once between now and May 30, you will help make our environment cleaner, feel better with the increase in physical activity and save money on fuel. You will be eligible to win prizes, including a bicycle, cash or a laptop computer!

An updated Chapel Hill Downtown Walking Map is now available. Thanks to Planning employees **Garrett Davis**, **Mike Callahan** and **Scott Simmons** for helping update the map with a new "Game Day Walking Loop." The maps are available in the Planning Department in a tear off version and a larger folded size. The map is also available online at www.townofchapelhill.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=1881

A new training website, www.orangemunitraining.org, is an outcome of a partnership between Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough, and OWASA. This site lists training opportunities available to employees working for these municipal and service providers. This is a great source for convenient and inexpensive training.

If you have training in your department that can be shared with our neighbors, please contact Valerie Meicher (Human Resource Development) at 968-2748 or vmeicher@townofchapelhill.org.

The Training and Development

Advisory Committee was established by Town Manager Roger Stancil in February. This group of Town employees is committed to the development of specific skills and competencies of Town employees to fulfill our mission. The Committee's goals are to:

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- Advance individual and team performance effectiveness.
- Encourage relationship building within and across departments that facilitates the creation of effective teams in a variety of settings.
- Develop diverse instructional methods and media that speak to differing learning styles.
- Maximize use of internal resources and expertise in teaching, training and development.
- Develop measures for determining our success in training and developing our employee skills and leadership abilities.

Each department has a representative that attends biweekly meetings. The committee has begun to assess and prioritize townwide training needs and is developing ways to identify those in our workplace who have the expertise and the desire to train and develop others.

To learn more, please contact one of the Advisory Committee Members:
 Business Management/IT – **Arek Kempinski**
 CaPA – **Sandy Kline**
 Fire – **Keith Porterfield**
 Housing – **Jackie Thompson**
 Library – **Lubomyra Sawczyn**
 Parks and Recreation – **Lisa Baaske**
 Planning – **Loryn Clark**
 Police – **Troy Smith**
 Public Works – **Ron Aiken**
 Transit – **Marcia Margotta**
 Human Resources – **Valerie Meicher**

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 Please recycle with white paper.



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Compliments



Paul Azzu (Transit) was complimented by Kristin Dellinger and Sara Washington. Dellinger said, "Paul always has a smile on his face." Washington said, "He is also an excellent driver and his cheery attitude does much to lighten the mood after a long day at work or school. . . he is definitely an asset to the Town of Chapel Hill."

Ms. Maland wrote to express her appreciation for the kindness and compassion of **Scott Blacknell** (Transit) after she fell as she was attempting to transfer to another bus. Scott called for help and stayed with her until she was able to drive herself home.

Sharon Cook thanked **Kumar Neppalli** (Public Works) for assistance with inquiries about road conditions on Homestead and Seawell School roads. "Thank you for your prompt response and for your continuing efforts to improve safety on our roads."

Ms. James wanted to say how much she appreciates the great service **Tracey Harris** (Transit) provides on the F route. "He is so nice to every passenger...We really appreciate him."

Dawn Smith (Transit) was thanked by Teara O'Kelly for exceptional service she provides on the V route. "Dawn is very helpful explaining bus routes, provides excellent customer service to the riders, and is very nice."

Bruce A. Cairns, MD, Medical Director of the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Hospitals, thanked the **Fire Department** and other agencies that worked together to ensure that celebrations following the NCAA men's basketball championship games were joyous and largely safe. "There were a few small but significant burn injuries during the two Final Four celebrations. . . I was worried about a much larger and significantly more dangerous situation — and that did not occur. It was very clear to me that planning and hard work by your [Fire] Department, the Police Department, the Town of Chapel Hill and many other local and state agencies ensured that the post-game celebrations were extremely successful..."

The support you all provided to our citizens, students, and University is consistent with the highest standard of public service."

Employee Appreciation Luncheon

It's new and improved, and you won't want to miss it! Make plans to attend the annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon to be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 12, at Chapel Hill High School. The event will include a catered lunch, table games and interactive bingo with your co-workers.

For lunch, employees have a choice of fried chicken or vegetarian lasagna (orders for lasagna must be made in advance). A new healthy



option for all is the salad bar offering. Also new is the Team Challenge, which invites each department to enter a team to compete in table games and a free throw shooting contest. Besides the fun, there are great prizes from local businesses, including grand prizes for a one night stay at either the Sienna Hotel or the Franklin Hotel!

Volunteers are needed to sign up for one-hour time slots to help with setting up, monitoring games area, taking tickets, preparing takeout meals, cleaning up and other tasks.

To volunteer, contact Johnny Pompey at 968-2828 or jpompey@townofchapelhill.org.

Recycling

Do you know someone who is moving at this busy time of year? Are you moving? Please follow zero waste move out guidelines.

Take hazardous wastes, including paint, chemicals, pesticides and fuels, to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Orange County Landfill (open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday — Friday and 7:30 a.m. to noon Saturday).

Take usable but unwanted items to a local thrift store. Take unopened packages of food to the IFC on Main Street in Carrboro or the OCIM at Millstone Court in Hillsborough.

Put all those old class notes, magazines, other clean dry paper and empty bottles out for recycling. Leave the blue or orange recycling bins behind for the next person at the house you occupy.

— Blair Pollock, Orange Community Recycling

Green Tips

Shake 5, Take 1! Help the Town save money and reduce its eco-footprint by using fewer paper towels each time you need to dry your hands. Instead of grabbing a handful of paper towels, try shaking your hands out over the sink four or five times so that you only need to use one paper towel. If everyone does this, we could potentially reduce our paper towel consumption by more than 50 percent. To go a step further, when it's warm enough consider letting your hands air-dry.

The Town uses recycled paper towels, and this has a positive benefit on our eco-footprint. According to IdealBite.com, every ton of 100 percent recycled paper purchased for consumption saves about 4,000 kilowatts of electricity and 7,000 gallons of water as compared to the production requirements for conventional paper towels.

This Green Tip idea was submitted by a TOWNtalk reader who wanted to contribute to the sustainability of our organization. If you have an idea, please email sustainability@townofchapelhill.org.

— John Richardson, Office of Sustainability

TOWNtalk Readership Survey

Your input is important to us, so please take a moment to share your feedback. Please send your completed survey to Communications and Public Affairs Department by June 1. Thank you.

1. Do you receive the newsletter regularly (on a monthly basis with the exception of July and August)?

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

2. How often do you read TOWNtalk:

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

3. Do you take the newsletter home?

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

4. Have you ever seen the picture of someone you know in the newsletter?

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

5. Has your name been mentioned in the newsletter?

Regularly Occasionally Rarely

6. Do you know about the Mission, Values and Strategies adopted by the Senior Management Team?

Yes No

7. Have you learned more about the Town's budget situation in the newsletter?

Yes No

8. In general, how would you rate the quality of the newsletter:

Excellent Good Needs Improvement Poor

9. Which are you more likely to read:

___ An online newsletter that is sent via email

___ A printed newsletter that is delivered to your department

10. Your comments. How can we change the newsletter to better serve its purpose?

11. Which of the following newsletter columns do you read?

A Short Report, the Town Manager's Column

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Employee Spotlight

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Senior Management Team Notes

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

New Employees

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Announcements from HRD about benefits and employee programs

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Service Award and Longevity Award Listings

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Compliments

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Green Tips

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Recycling

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Employee Forum

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Coming Up

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

Employee Briefs

Always Regularly Occasionally Rarely

A newsletter is only as good as its relationship with its readers. Thank you for taking a moment to tell us at the Department of Communications and Public Affairs what you think about the Town of Chapel Hill's employee newsletter, *TOWNtalk*.