



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

April 2009
Vol. 5, No. 8

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

The Town's second annual Earth Action Day Festival will be held on April 18, and it will showcase the ways that Chapel Hill is becoming a model community for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A lot of people are talking about "sustainability" these days. In Chapel Hill, we're really trying to make it mean something. Sustainability simply can be defined as meeting the social, economic and environmental needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same (or leaving this world better than you found it).

The Senior Management Team included this notion in its adopted missions statement: "Learning, serving and working together – creating a sustainable community through social equity, economic vitality and environmental protection."

The new Office of Sustainability headed by John Richardson is gearing up on a number of initiatives, including engaging employees in efforts to help our Town as an organization become more sustainable. Some of the areas that the employee group called the SOS or Sustainability Operations and Services team is focused on include green purchasing, employee advocacy, employee health, waste reduction and sustainable behavior. A central theme for the group's work to date is the notion of saving the Town money through greater efficiency.

In 2006, the Town of Chapel Hill became the first U.S. municipality to commit to a 60 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 through the Carbon Reduction Program. The Council authorized the pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from Town municipal operations on a per capita basis, beginning with an initial goal of five percent by 2010.

Do you have ideas that will help us accomplish this goal? Send John your suggestions at sustainability@townofchapelhill.org. To learn more about the Town's sustainability program, visit www.townofchapelhill.org/greencity.

Amy Harvey

Joined Town: February 1999

The Town's website at www.townofchapelhill.org provides important communication outreach to citizens and the world. It receives about 28,000 unique visitors in a single week. Behind the scenes is Amy Harvey, who assists a team of about 20 web stewards tasked with publishing service and program information to the Town's website.

Amy provides resources and helps web stewards develop new skills as she works to oversee more than 20,000 web pages. According to one web steward, Amy is always willing to assist, and her most common utterance is "Call me if you need me!" She is perfect for this position because she is very good at problem-solving and explaining technical ideas to non-technical people. During the transition of the website to Vision Internet, expected to be completed in June, Amy is serving as web manager. She will be training web stewards in how to use the new site in early May.

When not helping web stewards, Amy is publishing new material herself to the web. A single Council business meeting packet can require about 300 web pages, a publishing task that may take between 10 and 20 hours to accomplish.

Amy has worn various hats during her tenure with the Town, including serving as acting Town clerk and assisting with the work of volunteer citizen boards and committees. Amy loves the challenge of the job and the opportunity to learn new things.

Amy's husband, Michael, is a Zoning Administrator for Orange County. They live in Holly

Value in the Spotlight

RESPECT

trustworthy • open • defender
of individual rights • customer-
focused • sensitive • civil • decent



Springs with their five-year-old daughter, Morgan, and are expecting a new addition to the family in early October. The drive to Holly Springs is long, but sometimes the whole family can commute together and spend the time talking. When she's not working, Amy spends a lot of time outside with Morgan, playing at the park.

Our Value: I chose Amy to serve as Web Manager because I knew that even though she had not been trained as such, she had enough technical savvy and a large amount of initiative to be successful in this position. I also knew she had the people skills to help our web stewards understand their task. She's the ideal employee – dedicated, dependable, and loyal.

— Sabrina M. Oliver, Communications and Public Affairs Director

COMING UP

Saturday, April 18: Earth Action Day, noon to 5 p.m., on the grounds of Morehead Planetarium, 250 E. Franklin St.

April 24 - 25: Dixie Rock 20 Competition, Chapel Hill Community Center

Wednesday, May 6: Manager's Recommended Budget

Wednesday, May 20: Budget Public Hearing

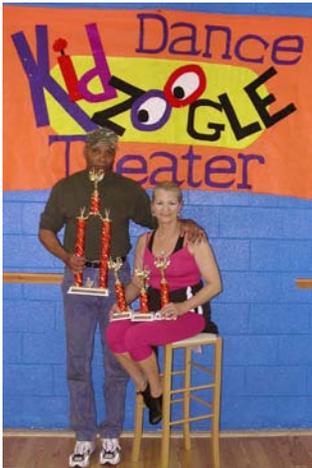


Learn more about our relationship to the environment with earth-friendly entertainment, vendors and exhibits at Earth Action Day.

In Brief

Congratulations to **Brian Parker, Ryan Depew, Chris Stephens** and **Dave Park** on their promotion to Fire Equipment Operators. Great job!

Congratulations to Public Works employees who have completed requirements of the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education, North Carolina State University, which offers training in safety and road maintenance for transportation personnel. **Cary De-graffenreidt, Joe Farrington** and **Gary Mitchell** completed requirements to become 2008 Advanced Roads Scholars. They were required to complete 8 training sessions and write a paper on how the program has helped them in their job and in their community. **Scott Phillips** and Joseph Stiff completed at least seven training sessions to become 2008 Roads Scholars.



Jeanette Taylor (Public Works) and her husband Vincent Taylor competed in the White Lighting Dance Competition in

Louisburg on March 21. Their dance duet performed to the song "Mr. Wendal" earned them a gold trophy, a "Distinction in Dance Award" and a trophy for Third Place overall.



Left to right: **Captain Jerry Blalock**, Franklin Street Firehouse Subs owner **Aruna Patel**, Deputy Chief **Caprice Mellon** and Firehouse Subs Director of Community Programs **Leslie Wildes**

The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation donated more than \$14,000 worth of firefighter safety equipment to the Chapel Hill Fire Department. An upgraded PASS device, which senses the lack of motion of a downed firefighter and sounds an alert, was presented to the Fire Department on March 18.



Don't miss the third annual **Employee Appreciation Golf Tournament**, to be held Saturday, May 2, at the Shamrock Country Club, 1722 Shamrock Drive in Burlington. The event will begin at 7:45 a.m. Early risers will have access to the driving range with range balls at no cost. Families and friends are welcome, but each team must have at least one Town employee on its team. Register by April 30. For more information, contact Johnny Pompey at (919) 968-2828 or jpompey@townofchapelhill.org. Above, **Mark Shrader** (Public Works) lines up a shot at last year's golf tournament.

Upcoming **Employee Forum** topics include:

- Resident rate for Town employees at Parks & Recreation facilities
- Donated leave bank for Town Employees
- Review of Transit inclement weather policy
- Presentation to the Council at May 20 budget meeting

Wellness Program Year End Check:

The Wellness Incentive Program is almost over and it is time to measure our efforts to improve our health and reduce risk factors. The program started in November 2008 with a health assessment and employees were provided with private coaching and opportunities to participate in other wellness programs. But the final measure of success is an improvement in health and reduction in risk factors.

The final Health Risk Appraisal and Screening will take place on the following dates:
 April 17: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Transit Training Room
 April 21: 8 a.m. - noon, Public Works
 April 24: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m., Fire Station 4

To prevent long wait times, we will provide participants with the health risk appraisal in advance and ask that you make an appointment by contacting Lynne Wade at lwade@townofchapelhill.org or (919) 968-2700.

Incentive payments will be based on program outcomes.

- Earn \$25 for completing Health Risk Assessment and Screening BOTH at the beginning and end of the program (November and April)
- Earn \$50 for meeting once per month with your personal Health Coach and meeting personal goals set by you and your coach.
- Earn \$200 for completing Health Risk Assessment BOTH at the beginning and end of the program and improving your wellness score in any of the measured dimensions.

HRD will review this year's program results and interests to plan the program for next year. We will start a new wellness initiative in fall 2009.

If a medical condition prevents you from achieving the standards for the reward, call us at (919) 968-2748 and we will work with you to develop another way to qualify for the reward.



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Compliments



Tim Auble (Transit) was complimented by Adam Overberg for being cheerful, friendly and efficient. "He seems to genuinely enjoy his job, particularly the people aspect. Today was gray, foggy, and wet, but Tim was as cheerful as ever, and I thought that deserved some special recognition."

Paul Azzu (Transit) was thanked by David Anderson for his friendliness and efficient service. "He is always on time and is sure to greet you with a smile every morning. Thank you for all that you do for us."

Jonzella Bailey-Pridham called to express her appreciation for EZ Rider Services and especially dispatcher **Amy Edwards** (Transit), who has assisted her in many ways. On one occasion, she left her purse on the van and, Amy called the van and had the driver immediately turn around to return her purse. Amy is "an asset to the company, and does so many nice things."

Tracy Harris (Transit) was commended by Ruth Monk for doing a great job. "He is competent, helpful and always remembers where his passengers get off the bus. He is good at what he does."

Ruth Monk complimented **Vanessa Johnson** (Transit) for doing a great job on the F route. "She is courteous and friendly."

Joseph Ray (Transit) was complimented by Sharon Graham for being an incredibly smooth and safe driver. "Please give him kudos. He's doing a great and friendly job."

Janie Demecco wanted to recognize **Dawn Smith** (Transit) for the great service she provides on the V Route in the afternoons. "Dawn is very nice to all the passengers and extremely punctual. She is also an excellent driver."

Tom Williams thanked the Town, particularly Council members **Cam Hill** and **Bill Strom**, for the new hockey rink in Southern Village. "It's a great facility and has been a blast to play on since it's opened. It's gotten plenty of play and is a real gem of a space."

LED Lighting Project

The Town of Chapel Hill and Duke Energy Carolinas have initiated a 12-month test program to evaluate the use of Light-Emitting Diodes (LED) for use in outdoor street lighting.

Duke Energy Carolinas has replaced 10 existing high pressure sodium lamps with new LED lamps on existing streetlight poles along Franklin Street from Columbia to Henderson streets as part of the test.

"Chapel Hill has built a reputation as a leader in sustainability initiatives on social, environmental and economic issues," Mayor Kevin Foy said. "Partnering with Duke Energy Carolinas on this project aligns well with our strong focus on sustainability."

LED technology produces a white light that enhances the color spectrum. For electric utilities, LED technology has potential as an energy-efficient option for outdoor street and security lighting.

The program fits into efforts to pilot new technologies that will assist with Chapel Hill's ambitious carbon reduction goals. In 2006, the Town of Chapel Hill became the first U.S. municipality to commit to a 60 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 through the Carbon Reduction Program.

Chapel Hill residents and visitors are



encouraged to send feedback about their overall satisfaction with the LED lights to sustainability@townofchapelhill.org.

To learn more about sustainability efforts in Chapel Hill, visit www.townofchapelhill.org/greencity or call the Town of Chapel Hill Office of Sustainability at (919) 969-5075.

To see Duke Energy's reports on a variety of sustainability initiatives, visit duke-energy.com/environment/sustainability.asp.

Recycling

Orange County Solid Waste Management is running three Shred-A-Thons to recycle confidential paper.

- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at University Mall in conjunction with the Chapel Hill Police Department
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Hampton Pointe behind Home Depot at the recycling site
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at Eubanks Road Park and Ride Lot, Chapel Hill

There is a limit of 10 boxes per person. Please, no plastics, computer disks, notebooks or other non-paper items. Cardboard boxes will not be recycled.

— Blair Pollock, Orange Community Recycling

Green Tips

Start composting! The Environmental Protection Agency reports that nearly 25 percent of the national waste stream consists of yard trimmings and food waste. Composting can help reduce your trash volume, lower methane generation at your landfill, and provide a free source of soil amendments for your lawn and garden.

According to Orange County Solid Waste Management, by composting food scraps the average household has the potential to divert from the landfill more than 200 pounds of food waste per year.

For more information about how to compost, visit www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/edu.asp.

Do you have ideas for ways we can conserve and improve efficiency? Email sustainability@townofchapelhill.org.

— John Richardson, Office of Sustainability

Chapel Hill Wins Again

The Tar Heels celebrated their fifth national NCAA Men's Basketball Championship on April 6, and Town employees breathed a sigh of relief after successfully managing another large crowd celebration on Franklin Street with an estimated 30,000 Tar Heel fans.

Town Manager Roger Stancil credited the professionalism and close attention of Town employees, who do their very best to manage the party – before, during and after the event. “We may be a small city, but we are challenged with the task of managing crowd events of a grand scale.”

I am happy when the UNC basketball team wins, but I am even happier when our Town Team wins. I am proud to be part of this team. We win when we work together cooperatively and do our best jobs for the community.”

Following Carolina's victory over Michigan State, downtown streets were closed to vehicular traffic after fans rushed to Franklin Street. The streets were opened to traffic at 1:50 a.m. There were two arrests made during the celebration. One for damage to property and the other, assault on a government official and intoxicated and disruptive.

Orange County Emergency Medical Services responded to 26 patients ranging

from minor lacerations, alcohol emergencies, burns and respiratory difficulties. Ten patients were transported to UNC Hospital.

Chapel Hill Police enlisted assistance from eight surrounding law enforcement agencies and employed about 300 officers. When the Tar Heels celebrated their NCAA win in 2005, costs totaled \$165,000 to manage the post-game celebrations. The Town and University shared these costs. The tally of 2009 celebration costs has not yet been completed.

What Chapel Hill does to prepare for large crowd gatherings in downtown:

- Develop a detailed plan well in advance.



Photo by The Chapel Hill Herald-Sun

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— Town Manager Roger L. Stancil

Dangers of Bonfires

Eight students sought treatment between Saturday and Tuesday at the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Hospitals for burns received as a part of basketball celebrations on Franklin Street. Three of those students had undergone surgery. Their injuries could cause infection, pain and long-term scarring, as well as cost thousands in medical treatment.

Dr. Bruce A. Cairns, director of the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Health Care, reported the following in a public information effort before the 2009 celebration.

- Involve in planning students, merchants, and others – in addition to law enforcement.
- Encourage police officers to be positive, stay calm and avoid negative encounters.
- Grease light poles with vegetable spray (prevents climbing and paint from sticking).
- Wet down the streets to assist with cleanup.
- Remove all vehicles from the event area.
- Signal when the party is over by sending in the clean-up crews, sweepers and water trucks.

In a two-year period, the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Health Care saw 11 burn injuries (not including the additional eight cases from the night of April 6) reported after UNC basketball victory celebrations.

- The average age of the injured person was 21.8 years; the range in ages of those injured was between 17 and 28 years old.
- The burn size on those hurt ranged from 2 percent to 22 percent total body surface area; the average was 6.4 percent.
- The injured areas involved included arms, legs and backs.
- Several people were admitted to the hospital, and skin grafting was required in some cases.
- Hospital charges frequently added up in the thousands of dollars.
- While alcohol was involved in some instances, in other cases the person injured was bumped or accidentally pushed into the fire.

