



MAY 2019
VOLUME 15 ISSUE 8

CHAPEL HILL

TownTalk



On the Front Burner



Town Manager Maurice Jones

May marks the formal beginning of the Budget Season for Fiscal Year 2019–2020. Although we have had several productive discussions with the Town Council since January, the official kick-off occurs this month with the presentation of the Town Manager’s Recommended Budget. The development of this year’s budget proved once again to be a challenge but I believe we have addressed a number of critical areas of need, for both the community

and our organization.

The recommended budget offers additional funding to help the Town take another important step in enhancing our environmental sustainability through the creation of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan; proposes to hire an Urban Designer who will be charged with assisting our staff, the community and potential developers in creating well designed projects that enhance our natural and built environment; and, coming on the heels of last November’s landslide election in favor of the Affordable Housing Bond Referendum, this budget advances the cause of affordable housing by increasing our investment in housing opportunities for all.

Our community values high-quality service – in other words, your hard work. In recognition of your service and to

ensure we continue to retain and recruit excellent employees, I have recommended a salary increase of three percent of median to help keep pace with the cost of living. I have also proposed funding a Class and Compensation Study that will let us know how our pay ranges and positions compare across the market. The pay adjustment will also help to offset the 4.9 percent increase in our health insurance for next year.

I see the recommended budget as a reflection of our Town’s values. A way to demonstrate what is most important to our organization and our community. But it is just the beginning. Immediately after the adoption of this budget in June, we will focus on developing a five-year budgeting strategy that will help guide us in developing our priorities for the future. These will be important conversations.

(continued on p 4)

Coming Up

Friday, May 3

Cycle de Mayo, 4–6 p.m.,
133 W. Franklin St.

Tuesday, May 14

Lunch and Learn: OTC Medications,
Noon, Public Works Bldg. 1

Sunday, May 19

Bloomfest, 1–6 p.m., Plaza at
140 W. Franklin St.

Monday, May 27

Town Holiday

Thursday, May 30

Last day to do the HRA (see p 4)



Photo by Mark Losey

Listening Sessions – Town Manager Maurice Jones is having lunch with about 10 randomly selected representatives from different departments each month to receive their input and discuss the Town’s vision and issues of the day. Pictured here is a lunch held on April 26.

Briefs

Erin Klinger and Catherine Callemyn (both Building and Development Services) passed the Zoning Certification tests at the UNC School of Government in April.



Chapel Hill Transit's **Fixed Route and Demand Response teams** received statewide safety awards from the North Carolina Public Transportation Association. This significant achievement demonstrates the skill of our transit operators and their commitment to safety. This is the sixth time in seven years that our Demand Response Team has taken home this award.

Jeremy Vaughn and Andy Colon (Public Works) completed the requirements to become North Carolina Roads Scholars. They completed courses to increase their knowledge of road maintenance procedures and improve their technical and managerial skills.

The Communications and Public Affairs team received Excellence in Communications Awards at the NC City & County Communicators (NC3C) in April. **Catherine Lazorko, Mark Losey, Melanie Miller and Ran Northam** (all CaPA) received the awards.

- Social Media: Best Campaign Use of Social Media - Emergency Communications: Seeing Is Believing
- TV, Video & Streaming: One Time Special Programming for video of Anita Hackett, a mechanic for Chapel Hill Transit. "If it's manmade, a woman can fix it." View the video at bit.ly/2RDYzWO.
- Printed Publications: Employee Newsletter TOWNtalk



The Town Council celebrated the 50th anniversary of former Mayor Howard Lee's election as the first black mayor of Chapel Hill at its meeting on May 1. Among other achievements, he was instrumental in establishing the Town's bus system. View the video by **Mark Losey** (CaPA) at youtu.be/UQxeNZUM19Y.



Anita Hackney (Transit) received the Transit Advocate Award from the North Carolina Public Transportation Association. Anita has advocated for and helped establish longevity

awards, training program graduation celebrations and Operator/Maintenance Team Member Appreciation Week.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

Friday, June 14
11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Southern Community Park

We are planning a fun event focused on appreciating, connecting, recognizing, and of course, feeding the employees that make our organization and our community so great!

After a few years indoors at the Friday Center, we are trying out one of our beautiful parks for this event. We'll have great food, lots of fun and games, and of course, the presentation of the Cal Horton Award.

The event planning committee would love your insight and input as we plan the pieces and details of this event. **Could you please take just a couple minutes and complete this survey by Monday, May 13?**

<http://bit.ly/2IRB4tm>

We hope to see all y'all there!

—The Employee Appreciation Day Committee



The Cal Horton Service Award will be presented at the Employee Appreciation event. Who will win our highest employee honor this year?



Compliments

Deborah Davis (Transit) was complimented by Sandy Austin for reacting quickly when a cyclist road right out in front of the bus. "Deborah had a quick reaction time and handled the situation professionally. She is wonderful!"

Lamont Corbett (Transit) was commended by a customer for being a good driver and being kind to passengers, especially those who need extra time to board or exit the bus and on rainy days.

Marlene Williams (Transit) was complimented by Jay Harper for being friendly. "She greets every rider on a busy bus and wishes them a great day as they depart."

William Rogers (Transit) was thanked by Patrick Brandt for alerting him that cars next to the bus were not stopping as he tried to cross the street. "If William hadn't honked I might have stepped out right in front of those cars."

Scott Banks (Parking Services) was commended by Rick Fahrer for his assistance with on-street parking for the Chapel of the Cross annual charity sale. "His professional approach to the job and friendly interaction is a great example for Town employees."

Ricky Hunter (Transit) was commended by Olivia Harrison for being kind and friendly to passengers. "Please let him know we appreciate it!"

Patricia White (Transit) was complimented by Olivia Harrison for being friendly to passengers. "She makes our days better just by choosing to get on her bus. Please let her know she is appreciated!"

Alyssa Mazingo passed along positive comments about the Police Department's **Crisis Unit**. "I've attended several events recently where someone has made positive comments."

Drew Cabe (Police) was thanked by Lori Sykes for not giving her a speeding ticket as she was on her way to the hospital to be with a friend who was getting an organ transplant. "I was able to make it and see Pete before they took him to the OR."

Bobby Bratton and **Philander Logan** (both Public Works) were commended by Tony Jeffreys (Police) for removing a recycling cart that was causing a blockage in a storm drain on the property of an 80-year-old resident.

Tracy Mabinton (Transit) was complimented by Jan Gradziuk for being very friendly and helpful. "There were times where I was late from work and she still held the bus for me."

Public Works crews were thanked by Diane Shull for fixing tripping hazards on sidewalks in the Summerfield Crossing neighborhood.

Keith Albright (Transit) was commended by Jay Harper for being polite and helpful, despite the heat and lack of air conditioning on his bus.

Travis Alston, Dexter Smith and **Rinaldo Marsh** (Public Works) were thanked by Sara Owens for their kindness. "They take the time to stop and say good morning."

Calvin McPherson (Police) was commended by Eleni Terzis (Fire) for knowing the right way to communicate with an autistic man who was in a serious car wreck. "I was SOOOO impressed with the police officer, he was wonderful with the man."

Reggie Mebane and **John Mueller** (both Transit) were commended by Roger Lundblad for helping him catch a bus when he was running late.

James Bradsher (Transit) was complimented by Amatullah King for excellent customer service. He helped her get to the right bus stop after she missed a stop. "So appreciated as it's kind of deserted after a certain time."

CHAPEL HILL TRANSIT KEEPS ITS COOL

Deborah Davis was commended by Sharon Pettiford for staying calm and keeping passengers safe during a tornado. "The driver kept her cool, and told us she would get us as close to Durham Tech's door as she possibly could for shelter. And she did just that. Only for myself and another lady to run off the bus and see that the doors were locked. At this point she said, 'Get back on the bus. I'm gonna get us over here to the Hospital' (Hillsborough Campus) and she did just that. During this scary time she stayed calm and never let us three passengers see her sweat. And I would just like to let her know she did an amazing job."

Roadeo Rock Stars! The Chapel Hill Transit Team of **Ricky Hunter, Tommy Hall** and **Javius Newman** took home 3rd place at the 2019 NCPTA State Bus and LTV Roadeo, with one Operator placing 4th and another 11th.

The Light Transport Vehicle (LTV) Team of **Justin Graves, Marcus Parker** and **Lillian Lee Graves** represented us well, with one operator at 11th place and another at 13th (out of 45 contestants).

Special thanks to the Chapel Hill Transit Team Members who helped organize and manage the Bus and



LTV Roadeo and kept things running smoothly. Your teamwork, dedication and professionalism are unmatched: Travis Parker, Nick Pittman, Nigel Frank, Michelle Sykes-Parker, Mark Lowry, Joe McMiller and Katy Luecken.



wellness @ work
 UNC HEALTH CARE | FAMILY MEDICINE
 TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

Which OTC medications should you take? Get the answers at "Talk Before You Take: Choosing the Right Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medications" at noon Tuesday, May 14, in the Public Works Conference Room (Bldg. 1). This lunch-and-learn will include general tips for using OTC medications safely and how to choose the right medications for pain, coughs and colds, allergies and more.

A healthy lunch will be provided. RSVP to Liska Lackey by 5 p.m. Friday, May 10, at llackey@email.unc.edu or 919-968-2796.

The Fruits and Vegetables Challenge begins soon! Register by May 20 and log each quick tip you complete from May 20 to June 16. Leading scorers will be entered into drawings for prizes. You can compete as a team!

Prizes include gift certificates from local grocers, handy kitchen tools, the Essential Reference Veggie Cookbook, salad to-go containers and more.

To sign up, contact Liska Lackey at llackey@email.unc.edu or 919-968-2796.



Last chance to do the HRA!

The 2019 Health Risk Assessment (HRA) will end on May 30. Schedule an appointment at an HRA clinic or walk in. Save some time by taking the online assessment before your appointment at chapelhillwellnessatwork.org.

When you complete the HRA, your cost-sharing contribution for health insurance is waived (\$20 per month). You'll get a personalized plan for follow-up based on your health needs and goals, free access to Town pools and gyms and a mini magazine with the Wellness@Work logo. Questions? Contact the Wellness Clinic at 919-968-2796.

GREEN TIPS



What are some easy ways to save water?

Move the mower blades up when the warm weather arrives. Taller blades of grass shade the roots and require less watering. And speaking of watering, try doing it in the early morning. As things heat up, irrigating in the early morning will help avoid evaporation.

What's a simple step to protecting water?

Adopt a storm drain. Do you have one near your house? Cleaning the top of the storm grate helps stormwater flow properly and prevents unwanted trash or other debris from getting into our local waterbodies.

ON THE FRONT BURNER

(continued from p 1)

I hope you'll share your thoughts at our Town Manager lunches and through other engagement activities. Your voice is important to me. I want to hear your ideas on how we can continue to both effectively invest in you and offer the quality of services our residents deserve.

I've had the chance to sit down with some of you face-to-face. Your opinions and insights are helping me understand how lucky we all are to be here, in this community that cares.



Spring is here and it's a great time for a bike ride! Celebrate Cycle de Mayo from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 3, at Carolina Square, 123 W. Franklin St. Go for a community bike ride, learn salsa dancing, enjoy good food and music (and giveaways!), and more. More info at gochapelhill.org.

Got News?
 Achievements • Weddings • Babies



Send your news to info@townofchapelhill.org.
 Got photos? Send them too!

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

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 Editor: Catherine Lazorko
 Graphic Designer: Melanie Miller
 Staff Writers: Ran Northam and Mark Losey

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