



# TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

March 2010  
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[www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)

## A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,  
Town Manager

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in life you will have been all these." George Washington Carver.

I see my fellow Chapel Hill employees being all of these things every day as you provide service to the people who live and visit here. From the day I arrived here, people who live here have told me how they understand they receive a high level of service from the Town and how much they appreciate it. They confirmed that again in the results of the recent community survey:

- 82 percent satisfied with services (rated 24 percent above the national average)
- 71 percent satisfied with the quality of customer service by the Town (rated 15 percent higher than the national average)

Thank you for all you do every day. You make this a good and fun place to work and a great place to live.

**Budget:** We will work hard on the upcoming budget to maintain current services with no tax increase and minimal effect on employees. I appreciate your help in doing this. As soon as I know what we can do, we will share that information with you.

**Healthcare:** We are working with UNC Hospitals to create an innovative partnership that will help us reduce our healthcare claims. I will be asking all of you to help us focus on wellness and safety so we can reduce our need for the most expensive healthcare services.

## Kay McDaniel

**Maintenance Operations Specialist**

**Joined Town:** June 8, 1998

Kay works with two divisions in Public Works—the Fleet Division and Facilities Management. An important part of Kay's job is taking in maintenance requests for Town buildings and vehicles. Requests for repairs come by email to [PWMaintenanceOperations@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:PWMaintenanceOperations@townofchapelhill.org), walk-in, phone or radio.

Her job involves many other responsibilities, including a weekly report on fuel prices. She also does write-ups and pictures for [GovDeals.com](http://GovDeals.com) where surplus vehicles and equipment are auctioned.

Kay says that the best part of the job is working with people in the Town and getting to know many other Town employees. The job is never boring, because there's always something going on. Kay's years of experience have given her the skills she needs to do her job well, but it never gets boring, because she says, "Everything's always changing and growing."

Kay has been a member of the Employee Forum since 2006 and has been the Chair for 3 years. She is pleased to be part of a team that works together to make things better for employees. The Forum brings together many people with different talents to work on employee issues. The Forum's recent accomplishments include reviewing the Senior Management Team core values and suggesting the addition of Accountability. This process involved a lot of teamwork, interest, and enthusiasm. The Forum has also been active in speaking to the Council during the budget process and will be

## Value in the Spotlight

### Teamwork

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



Hugh McDaniel photo

working with the Sustainable Operations and Services Committee on the topic of Employee Advocacy.

For several years, Kay was the main fundraiser for the Combined Campaign, and now she does fundraising for the employee golf tournament. See below for more information about the tournament.

Kay lives in Graham with her husband Hugh, who works in radio communications for the city of Durham. Between the two of them, they have five children and nine grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with the family.

## COMING UP

**Saturday, April 10: Earth Action Day, noon–5 p.m., Southern Community Park**

**Thursday, April 22: Learn @ Lunch: Oh My Achy Back, Noon, TOC Bldg. 1**

**Saturday, April 24: Dedication of Gazebo at Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, 2:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 1: Employee, Family and Friends Golf Tournament**

See page 4 for a calendar of wellness events.



Earth Action Day on April 10 features PaperHand Puppet Intervention and Swap-O-Rama-Rama.

# In Brief



Town Attorney **Ralph Karpinos** was a speaker at the winter conference of North Carolina Municipal Attorneys

at the UNC School of Government in March. He presented parts of programs on the Town's Voter Owned Election Program and on the Carolina North Development Agreement between the Town and the University.



Best wishes to **Justin Lanning** (Fire) and wife, Libby, who are the proud parents of

Andrew James, born Feb. 22. He was 9 lbs. 10 oz. and 22 inches long. Everyone is doing fine.



**Brian Litchfield** (Transit) and wife Aarica are the proud parents of a baby boy,

Tennyson Lonnie, who was born on March 17. This little bundle of joy weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz. Congratulations, and get well soon, Brian!



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

**The Fire Department** and the Chapel Hill Museum were recognized by the North Carolina Fire and Life Safety Education Council for their collaboration on a fire safety education program for local elementary school students. The program was chosen as first runner up for the Educator's Award of Excellence for the central North Carolina region.

The musical puppet show, "Johnnie Joins the Fire Department," was recently produced as a live action film funded by Progress Energy.



*Patrick Spencer (right, Fire) brings star puppet Lt. Dan to life.*



Congrats to **Doug Parrish** (Fire) and his wife, Chartie, who are now grandparents of a lil' round bundle of

joy. Their new addition, Serena Renee Parrish, was welcomed by her parents, grandparents, aunt and uncle on Feb. 23, weighed in at 7 lbs., 11 oz. and 21 inches of pure joy. All are doing well and settling Ms. Serena in her new home. Grandpapa is still looking for a cool grandpa name.

Congratulations to Town employees who completed the Tobacco Road Marathon in Cary! **Chris Blue** and **Donnie Rhoads** (Police) both finished in a time of 4:01, and **Ralph Karpinos** (Attorney) finished in 4:44. A marathon is 26.2 miles. Did we miss any employees who participated in this race? Please let us know! [info@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:info@townofchapelhill.org)



The Police Department is participating in the **2010 N.C. Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign for Special Olympics.**

Events planned for this year include a charity golf tournament at Governors Club on April 19, Pig Out on the Green at Southern Village on April 24, the Orange County Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 2, and a Give-Away-Raffle.

For more information about purchasing t-shirts or participating in other Torch Run events, contact Phil Smith (Police) at [psmith@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:psmith@townofchapelhill.org).

Chapel Hill has been chosen as the host city for the **2011 NC Fire & Life Safety Conference.** The Town of Chapel Hill and UNC and the UNC Jaycees Burn Center have a rich tradition of life safety and public education efforts and we will look forward to the attendees visiting our community and sharing their information about effective ways to protect our citizens and residents.

**Don't miss Earth Action Day!** This exciting outdoor festival features performances, interactive exhibits and demonstrations and local food. Visit the Swap-O-Rama-Rama to sew, screen-print, or embellish your own unique outfits—just bring a \$10 donation and a bag of clothes. Learn how to make your own household cleaners, compost at home and create art out of recycled materials.

Earth Action Day needs volunteers—for more information, visit [www.townofchapelhill.org/earthday](http://www.townofchapelhill.org/earthday), call 968-2829 or email [nwayne@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:nwayne@townofchapelhill.org).

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# Compliments SMT Notes



**Tracey Harris** (Transit) was complimented by Kerry Ann Dacosta for being on time. “I can always rely on the schedule when he is driving. He takes the anxiety out of riding the bus and does a great job with his passengers.”

**Richard Roberts** (Transit) was commended by Ted Taydus for being pleasant and courteous to passengers. “He is a good, safe driver and on time every day . . . I wish you had more drivers like him.”

**Mark Bayles** and **Karin Michel** (Library) were thanked by Jim Turner for speaking at the Kiwanis Club. “This morning all of us learned more about the management of the library, its all encompassing work and the availability of so many wonderful programs than we ever could have imagined.”

**Linda Burnette** (Parks and Recreation) thanked police and fire staff for assistance after a traffic accident. “Talk about a team working together to get the job done . . . it was awesome! . . . Many thanks to everyone for all you did!”



The March Employee Forum meeting was hosted by the Housing Department. Housing manages 336 apartments with 13 different sites (12 in Chapel Hill and 1 in Carrboro). There are about 850 people utilizing the housing program. Other topics discussed include the Sustainable Operations and Service Team (SOS), which has a subcommittee on employee advocacy, and an update from Steve Spade (Transit) on Transit’s inclement weather policy.

The April 8 Employee Forum meeting will be hosted by the Parks and Recreation department.

## SMT Notes

The following is a brief update of some of the items that were announced and have been discussed recently by the Senior Management Team (SMT). To stay up-to-date on Town news and activities, subscribe to Chapel Hill eNews by emailing [publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org).

**Complete Streets:** A meeting to discuss this approach to transportation planning will be held in mid-April. Experienced staff from Charlotte will join our staff for an all day session on April 16. If your department “operates within the right-of-way”, please plan to attend with relevant staff.

**Council Retreat:** The Council Planning Retreat is scheduled April 10. The Town Manager has received feedback on the latest version of the council goals and will review for any additions/changes he might wish to include. The same process as used in the past will be followed in presenting the information to Council. After the retreat, the SMT will have about a month to submit their work plans before the presentation at the May 24 business meeting. Updating the current council goals will continue at the end of April and the end of July. At that time, the current goals will be “retired” and the new council goals process will begin.

**Drama Triangle Classes:** Four new sessions of Dick McMahon’s Drama Triangle classes are being planned, beginning March 30. After these sessions, the 150 previously identified supervisors will have completed basic supervisory training and Drama Triangle training.

**Coaching for Interdepartmental Coordination:** Terrie Hutaff will be available twice a month for coaching, for interdepartmental coordination, etc. using the facilitative leadership model.

**Google Project Application:** The application for the Google Fiber Project was being finalized for the March 26 deadline. View the Mayors’ video on the YouTube website at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZm9siVXo3s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZm9siVXo3s) and other materials at [www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org).

**Electronic Pay Stubs:** The Business Management Department is slowly rolling on a system to deliver pay stubs by e-mail rather than hard copy. A member of the Business Management staff will contact each department head to determine how best to accomplish this in his/her department.

**Canine Handlers’ Graduation:** The Police Department’s canine handlers’ graduation was March 26.

## Recycling

You can reduce your household waste by up to 20 percent while providing a rich soil supplement to your garden with compost. Orange County is again selling backyard composting bins from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Solid Waste Office, 1207 Eubanks Road. Bins are \$50 each, payable by cash or check.

You can now recycle old media like cassette tapes, diskettes and video tape with the electronics recycling at Solid Waste Convenience Centers or the Orange County landfill.

The Recycling program is looking for a few volunteers at Earth Action Day Saturday, April 10, at Southern Community Park. Contact Muriel at [recycling@co.orange.nc.us](mailto:recycling@co.orange.nc.us) or 968-2788.

—Blair Pollock, Orange County Solid Waste Management

## Green Tips

**New Blue Bins Abound**—Looking to recycle a bottle, can or piece of mixed paper but you can’t leave your meeting to do it? Hey, we’ve all been there, but fret no further. Starting in February, the Town coordinated with Orange County Solid Waste Management to furnish extra bottle/can and paper recycling bins in all conference rooms at Town Hall. We’ve also placed some bins in common areas as well as the Council Chamber. So, the next time you’re in the middle of an important meeting and can’t bear to look at that empty can of soda sitting on the table, look for the blue bin in your conference room.

What about other facilities? Well, Town Hall is just the first place we looked. If you work in another Town facility that could use some additional recycling bins, let us know. Please contact John Richardson at [jrichardson@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:jrichardson@townofchapelhill.org) or 969-5075.

—John Richardson, Sustainability Office

# Easy Ways to Be More Active

## Find Smarter Ways to Commute

Get in better shape and help the environment by taking the SmartCommute Challenge! Join the thousands of Triangle commuters who do something good for their wallets and the environment by not driving alone to work! Visit [www.SmartCommuteChallenge.org](http://www.SmartCommuteChallenge.org) and pledge at least once between April 15 and May 15 to ride the bus, bike, walk, vanpool, carpool, or work from home.

You could win prizes, including cash, a foldable bike or a laptop!

Here's how you can SmartCommute:

- **Carpool:** find a carpool partner at [www.ShareTheRideNC.org](http://www.ShareTheRideNC.org)
- **Vanpool:** join an existing vanpool or start a new one before May 30 and the first month's fare is free!
- **Ride the Bus:** Call 485-RIDE to get help planning your bus commute or go to [www.GoTriangle.org/](http://www.GoTriangle.org/) and use the new trip planner. If you pledge to try the bus we'll send you a free regional day pass!
- **Bike or walk:** Find bike routes, information on how to rack your bike on the bus, walking trails and more at [www.GoTriangle.org](http://www.GoTriangle.org)
- **Telework:** working from home even one day a week is a great way to reduce your impact on the environment, reduce stress and keep some money in the bank.

Information: [Icon@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:Icon@townofchapelhill.org) or [www.SmartCommuteChallenge.org](http://www.SmartCommuteChallenge.org)



## Wellness Events

### April

- 1 8–10 a.m. Diabetes Awareness, Free Blood Sugar Check, Location: TOC Bldg 1
- 8 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. First Aid, CPR/AED TOC (contact Terry Battle at 969-5135)
- 13, 15, 20, 22: Fresh Start Smoking Cessation Classes, Alamance Regional Grand Oaks Center. To register for these free classes call 336-538-8012 or 336-538-8093
- 23 1–5 p.m. Health Screening, TOC Bldg 1
- 22 Noon Learn @ Lunch: Oh My Achy Back and Smart Commute Challenge, TOC Bldg 1
- 28 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Health Screening, TOC Bldg 1
- 29 4–7 p.m. Health Screening, Transit Bike Conditioning Workshop (Dates TBA)



### May

- 13 Noon Learn @ Lunch: The Silent Killer—High Blood Pressure; Blood Pressure Screenings
- 19 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Transit

### June

- 10 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. First Aid, CPR/AED TOC (contact Terry Battle at 969-5135)
- 24 Noon Learn @ Lunch: Skin cancer awareness, prevention and possible screenings

**SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS** to TOWNtalk! The next deadline is April 7

for the April issue, scheduled to be published on April 14. Send submissions to [publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org) or call 968-2743.

