



# TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

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

## On the Front Burner



By Roger L. Stancil,  
Town Manager

**Halloween.** It has been a while but congratulations to everyone on the Halloween Team for another great job for our community. We have taken a giant step toward truly creating a Home Grown Halloween.

**Healthcare.** Our negotiations with UNC for healthcare programs have gone more slowly than I hoped. It is a complex matter and we are trying to make sure we do it right. A new wrinkle is the possibility of a mobile clinic that can park at any Town facility and therefore be accessible to everyone. Look for additional information soon.

**Holidays.** Enjoy your time with friends and family. They are an important priority in a balanced life.

**Influence.** I want to be part of a workplace where I know that each of us can influence the conditions and environment in which we work. Help me find ways to build and strengthen that type of workplace at the Town of Chapel Hill. Got an idea? Let me hear it. Let's talk about it.

**Values.** The Senior Management Team and the Employee Forum will soon wrap up their work on shared values and a system for holding each other accountable for acting in a manner consistent with those values. We will then put our ideas out for everyone to comment. Please take your opportunity to participate.

## Chris Blue

**Police Chief**

**Joined Town: July 1997—sworn as an officer in November 1997**

Described as strong leader who reflects the community's values, Chris Blue assumed the position of chief of police for Chapel Hill on Dec. 1.

"I have selected the very best police chief for this community," said Town Manager Roger Stancil. "He will become a key part of improving the quality of life and making Chapel Hill a better place to live for all."

Blue replaces Brian Curran, who retired after 28 years with the Town. Blue has held positions of assistant chief, captain, lieutenant, sergeant, patrol officer and crime prevention officer in the community services unit. As assistant chief, he was responsible for the preparation of the department's \$12 million annual operating budget and oversaw the management of Homegrown Halloween and critical incident response.

A native of Chapel Hill, Blue has a bachelor's degree in radio, television, and motion pictures from UNC-Chapel Hill, and a master's degree in public administration from NC State University. He is president of the NC Police Executives Association and past president of Volunteers for Youth. Blue received a finisher's medal at the Outer Banks Marathon on Sunday, Nov. 14, finishing in 3:48.

## Value in the Spotlight

# Professionalism

efficient • competent • accountable • effective  
committed to excellence • responsive



Catherine Lazorko photo

"I look forward to continuing the work started by Chief Brian Curran to strengthen our agency's community policing efforts," Blue said. "The Chapel Hill Police Department is made up of outstanding men and women, and I am excited to lead them as we continue this important work."

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## COMING UP

**Friday, Dec. 17: Swearing-in Ceremony for Police Chief Chris Blue, 4 to 6 p.m., Hargraves Center**

**Dec. 23–24, 27, 31: Town Holiday. Most municipal offices will be closed.**



Residents marched, sang, and got in the holiday spirit with the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Holiday Parade on Saturday, Dec. 11.

# In Brief

**Zakia Alam** (Business Management) has completed the requirements for becoming a Certified Local Government Purchasing Officer. Zakia will receive her certificate in March 2011.

**John Bjurman** has joined the Town as Interim Technology Director. He will function as the division lead effective June 1, 2011, to prepare for **Bob Avery's** (Business Management) retirement in May 2011.



De-Shauna Dudley, daughter of **Tracy Dudley** (Parking) and

**Scott Blacknell** (Transit), was selected to be a member of the W.G. Pearson Magnet Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

**David Funk** (Police) completed the Beach to Battleship Ironman Triathlon in Wilmington, N.C., in just over 15 hours. It included a 2.4 mile ocean swim, a 100 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile marathon run.



**Ralph Karpinos** (Attorney, left) was part of a 15 member team at

the International Municipal Attorneys Conference in New Orleans who participated in a service project to rebuild a home in St. Bernard Parish damaged 5 years ago in Hurricane Katrina.



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Melanie Miller

## Composting Lunch and Learn

The first Sustainability Lunch and Learn on composting was attended by 11 people from six departments. Participants learned the basics of indoor and outdoor composting. Experienced composters got information about how to improve their composting methods.

The composting demonstration was held in the garden outside of TOC Public Works Building 2. If you are interested in starting a new composting unit at another Town facility, contact John Richardson at 969-5075.

The Sustainability Office is planning Lunch and Learns on home energy conservation and water conservation in early 2011.



Call 919-968-2788 to purchase a composting bin. For more information about the Town's sustainability programs, call John Richardson at 969-5075.

**Ron Powers** (Transit) has successfully completed the requirements of the Town's Mechanic Career Advancement Series and has been promoted to Mechanic III. Congratulations!



Chapel Hill Transit Fixed Route Division held a graduation ceremony on Nov. 4 for supervisor/dispatcher trainees **Shanika Nickerson, Richard Coane, Richard Roberts, Carl Hicks and Tom Bartolotta.**

The training took several months to complete. Each trainee is now qualified to assume the role of dispatcher or supervisor whenever needed.

**Chapel Hill Receives Traffic Safe Community Award:** For the fourth time since 2004, Chapel Hill was recognized by Triple A of the Carolinas for efforts to promote traffic safety. Chapel Hill received the Award of Excellence and the title of North Carolina's Traffic Safe Community of 2010.

**Nominees for the Cal Horton award** were honored and the recipient of the award announced at the Dec. 3 Longevity Breakfast at Hargraves Center. The award was presented to Maggie Burnett at a ceremony on Dec. 10.

**The Chapel Hill Youth Council is collecting winter coats** for the InterFaith Council. Drop off coats, hats, scarves, gloves and sweaters in the Planning department by Dec. 18.

**Keep Orange County warm!** Blanket Orange County is collecting new or gently used blankets (single or twin sizes preferred). For a list of drop off locations, visit [www.BlanketOrangeCounty.com](http://www.BlanketOrangeCounty.com)

Communications and Public Affairs organized training classes to improve our **powerpoint presentation skills** this fall. First, we had Glenn Hargett from the City of Jacksonville offer the "Powerpoint in Government" on Oct. 8. Then, our resident experts -- Ken Pennoyer (Business Management) and Melanie Miller (CaPA) led "Putting the POWER in PowerPoint" on Nov. 12. View videos from these sessions at [chapelhill.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=5](http://chapelhill.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=5)



The Town Council honored veterans with a ceremony before the Council meeting on Nov. 8. Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt read a proclamation expressing the Council's gratitude, appreciation and respect for the service of veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces.

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# Compliments



**Richard “Rerun” Roberts** (Transit) was commended by Carol Grant for being a safe and helpful driver. “Rerun gained my confidence early on, not only for his exceptional driving skills but also because he is clearly interested in the people who ride on the buses he drives.”

**Anthony Elliott** (Transit) was complimented by Carol Grant for his good driving. “He was very skillful and should be commended for service.”

**Scott Blacknell** and **Ricky Hunter** (both Transit) were thanked by Ashish Pandya for helping to retrieve a wallet that he left on the bus.

**William Rider** and **Carl Walker** (both Transit) were commended by Jennie for being helpful, polite and friendly.

**Sheila Neville** (Transit) was thanked for being courteous, helpful and an outstanding driver. “If anyone wants a model driver to emulate, they should look to Sheila.”

**Amy Edwards** (Transit) was commended by Elizabeth Shimkus for her positive attitude and safe driving. “She makes me smile in the mornings, and I just want to sing her praises :) She deserves five gold stars!”

**Chris Bradley, Larry Graves** and **Bryson Butner** (all Fire) were commended by Jefferson Williams for providing excellent care to a stroke patient.

Matthew Redinbo thanked the **Chapel Hill Fire Department** for their rapid response to the fire in Kenan Laboratories on Oct. 3.

**Chris Blue** (Transit) was commended by Kent Squires for assisting an ill passenger.

Vicki O’Neal called to express her appreciation for **Alexander Street** (Transit). She said he is very courteous, gentle and caring.

Beth C. Deacon complimented **Tommy Gregory** and other Chapel Hill firefighters who participated in the Fire Prevention Week Fair.

**Tim Auble** (Transit) was complimented by Karl Bauman for being friendly to his passengers. “The Town is most fortunate to have him.”

# 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).

**Economy:** The economy shows only small signs of improving. The general consensus is that it will continue to lag for some time, and this will affect the Town and its employees.

**Combined Campaign:** Mark Bayles introduced representatives of the United Way and Red Cross organizations. United Way discussed leadership giving and the current huge need in the community. The Combined Campaign Kick-off was held Nov. 5.

**Performance Measurement:** A presentation was made by summarizing the goals of this project along with a phased schedule of departments to participate into the fall 2012. On Nov. 11, a comprehensive presentation was

made about the strategic planning process. View the video at [chapelhill.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip\\_id=857](http://chapelhill.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=857).

**Health Care Facility Project:** Discussions are ongoing among the Town, University and Blue Cross Blue Shield about creating a health care facility for Town employees. Talks have been slow due to the complexity of the project.

**523 E. Franklin St.:** The Town has taken possession of 523 E. Franklin and is planning and beginning cleanup and maintenance work.

**Housing:** South Roberson at Cameron housing neighborhood is in the process of renovation.

**HRD:** Safety Officer Mike Beckman will begin “drop-in” safety inspections in all departments in the near future.

**Pine Knolls:** Some SMT members have received a request from planner Megan Wooley for participation on a team to discuss outreach for the Pine Knolls neighborhood in January.

## Spotlight: Chris Blue

(continued from p. 1)

Following Chief Curran’s announcement of retirement, Stancil informed the Town Council in June 2010 that he was considering internal candidates for the position. Internal candidates eligible to apply were three captains and two assistant chiefs.

Blue was selected to undergo an assessment center process. It was his second experience with the process. Blue had placed second in an exhaustive nationwide recruitment and selection process back in 2007 for the replacement of former chief Gregg Jarvies. Although not selected for the position at that time, Stancil said that it was apparent that Blue had significant potential to advance into the role of police chief.

Blue lives in Chapel Hill with his wife, Natasha, and two daughters, ages 10 and 12. In addition to his pursuits as a runner, Blue relaxes by playing the guitar and shooting hoops with his daughters in the cul de sac!

# Green Tips

## Just Pick Up the Phone!

Do you suffer from meeting fatigue or know of someone who does? Would you like to spend less time driving to meetings and circling the building for a parking space? Could you use an extra 30-60 minutes per day to get things done?

If you answered yes to most of these questions, then I have the solution for you: conference calling. Yes, the Town’s IT division now offers access to a conference call bridge which can support up to 99 participants. All you have to do is call the IT Help Desk at ext. 2020 and reserve the date and time when you want to host the conference call. They’ll provide you with the call-in number and instructions for hosting the meeting. Is there a catch? Yes, you must have access to a network supported phone—likely the one sitting at your desk.

So, the next time you have to host a meeting and feel like saving time, money and fuel, consider a conference call instead. Your meeting attendees will love you for it.

Disclaimer: Some meetings are best suited for face-to-face discussion. We’ll let you be the judge of that.

# How Chapel Hill Handles Large Events



## Halloween Facts

- 2010 Crowd size: 35,000
- 2009 Crowd size: 50,000
- EMS Calls: 7 calls (3 transported to hospital)
- Citations: 1
- Franklin Street Cleared: 11:40 a.m.
- Franklin Street Reopened to Traffic: 12:45 a.m.
- Police personnel: 318  
(Chapel Hill, Durham Co, Durham Police, Wake Co., UNC, Chatham CO. SO, Morrisville, NC State Highway Patrol, Orange Co. SO, Carrboro PD, Garner PD)
- Fire Personnel: 60  
(Chapel Hill, Orange Rural Fire Department, Hamlet Fire Department and Raleigh Fire Department)
- EMS Personnel: 35  
(Orange County, South Orange Rescue and Parkwood)
- Port-o-Johns: 53
- Light Towers: 21
- Traffic Cones: 950
- Extra Trash Barrels (the orange ones): 150
- Street Sweepers: 4
- Street Flushers: 3
- Time Elapsed from Street Closure to Reopening: 3.25 hours



## Fabulous Festifall

The Parks & Recreation Department pulled off the Town's 38th annual Festifall on Oct. 3 with some exceptional changes and improvements! This year citizens formed a volunteer planning committee and concentrated on providing more ways for the community to experience art through the engagement of all senses. New components included dance instruction and

performances by UNC Dance Marathon, the on-site decoration of 4 multi-media pumpkin head sculptures by local artist Hunter Levinsohn, and for the kids pumpkin painting and a parachute dance!

The committee also placed a concerted effort on using Festifall to create a positive economic impact on local businesses, especially those



along West Franklin Street. For the first time ever art patrons enjoyed a Taste of Chapel Hill through samples from Curry Blossom Café, 411 West, Carolina Brewery, and Kildare's Irish Pub. Over 15,000 citizens made it to Festifall and noted the overall improvement in the quality of art and activity offerings.