



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

March/April 2011
Vol. 7, No. 5

www.townofchapelhill.org

On the Front Burner



Budget Status. As we finalize the 2011-12 Budget I will recommend to Council my priorities that directly affect those of us who work for the Town continue to be 1) No layoffs 2) Continue Healthcare Initiative 3) Continue development of Ombuds program 4) No change to benefits. I hope to achieve these priorities within the context of the Council goals of no tax increase and funding the Comprehensive Plan development as the only new Council Goal.

Healthcare Initiative. As of today, we are still on target to have a Nurse Practitioner working with Town employees as of May 2. Jackie Carden, Jim Orr and Heather Robinson have done an outstanding job of working with UNC Healthcare staff to make this happen. The first priority will be to introduce the Nurse Practitioner to you and begin the journey of helping us all find ways to better health. As we make progress, the dollars we spend on health insurance can decrease and be focused on other priorities.

Values. The Senior Management Team and the Employee Forum will meet again jointly April 28 to finalize a statement of our common values, establish a way to communicate these values to new and current employees, and begin to plan for a feedback process that allows us all to have conversations with each other about our decisions and behavior and how they relate to our stated values. Look for the results of that conversation.

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Lizzie Burrill

Assistant Aquatics Supervisor

Joined Town: May 29, 2000

Lizzie Burrill started working for the Town as a lifeguard when she was in high school, and has worked her way up to assistant supervisor for the Town's exceptional aquatics program.

Lizzie's responsibilities include overseeing the operation of the Community Center pool; training all lifeguards (usually 30-40 at a time); and teaching classes, including lifeguarding classes twice a year. She assists with programming—deciding what programs are offered, how many, and marketing.

Lizzie enjoys developing programs like Make a Splash, which will offer free swim lessons to disadvantaged children, and the Guard Start Junior Lifeguarding program.

Lizzie wants to get everyone involved in aquatics, from six months to adults, in programs ranging from water exercises to job training. She especially enjoys working with preschoolers and teens.

Lizzie likes that the aquatics program has a diverse staff. She says the wide range in ages allows co-workers to mentor each other. The aquatics program aims to educate the public about water safety and give them the skills they need to be safe in the water.

Lizzie was born in New York and moved to Chapel Hill when she was eight. She has earned degrees in recreation management and business administration from Appalachian State University. When she's not working, she likes

Value in the Spotlight

Teamwork

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



Melanie Miller photo

spending time with friends and spending time in the mountains, snowboarding, hiking and camping. She also likes to bake cupcakes in luscious flavors, like vanilla raspberry with white chocolate buttercream.

"Lizzie is a true asset to the Aquatics Division, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Town of Chapel Hill. She strives to always set a positive example and is constantly looking for ways to improve the Aquatic Division. She is devoted, professional, diligent, and a pleasure to work with."

—Robb English, Aquatics Director

COMING UP

Friday, April 22: Town Holiday

Saturday, April 30: Employee Golf Tournament, 1:30 p.m., Challenge Golf Club, Graham. Information: 968-2734 or bleach@townofchapelhill.org

Saturday, April 30: Shred-a-Thon, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hampton Pointe Shopping Center, Hillsborough

Monday, May 9: Manager's Recommended Budget presented to Council

Friday, June 17: Employee Appreciation Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Chapel Hill High School



Learn about the Bolin Creek Restoration Project in a video featuring Trish D'Arconte (Stormwater) at vimeo.com/21352340

In Brief

Mark Agosto and Bradley Pearce

(Transit) have completed the requirements of the Town's Mechanic Career Advancement Series and have been promoted to Mechanic III. They are two of only 213 mechanics nationwide and 15 in North Carolina to have achieved the Master Transit Bus Technician certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Congratulations to **Lisa Edwards** (Fire) for being accepted into Pfeiffer University for a Masters degree in Leadership and Organizational Change.

Congratulations to all **Fire Captains** who have completed all that was necessary to advance to Senior Captain. Well done!



Congratulations to **Melissa Holland** (Fire) and her husband Doug on the birth of their precious

bundle of joy. Payton Alexandra Holland arrived in style on Jan. 26. Payton weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Karin Michel (Library) and her family welcomed Theodore Jackson May at 9:04 a.m. April 18. He weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz. and was 20 inches long.



Chris Tomlin (Fire) and his wife Jenny welcomed a healthy baby boy, Owen James, on April 8.

Owen James made his debut at 8 lbs., 11 oz. and 22 3/4" long.

At the Police Awards Ceremony on March 2 awards were presented to the following:

- Certificate of Appreciation – **Etta Young**
- Certificate of Recognition – **James Orbich**
- ASIS International Award – **Paul Bell**
- Civilian Service Award – **Freddie Shelton** and **Joey Shelton**
- Meritorious Conduct – **James Orbich**
- Employee of the Year – **John French**
- Officer of the Year – **James Orbich**
- Herman L. Stone Award – **Brian Curran** (ret)



Officer James Orbich (left) is congratulated by Chief Chris Blue (right).



Jessie Torchia (Fire) and his wife Samantha are proud to announce a new addition to their family, Vito

Joseph. Vito was born on Feb. 12, and weighed 9 lbs. 5 oz.

Leo Vereen (Police) was the highest scoring candidate in the process for Assistant Chief.

Chuck Quinlan (Police) was the highest scoring candidate in the process for Captain. Both will be promoted.

The **2011 N.C. Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign for Special Olympics** has begun. The Police Department has set a goal to raise \$50,000 this year. Events planned include a Give-A-Way Raffle and the Orange County Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on June 1. T-shirts and hats are available. For more information, visit www.chpd.us or contact Phil Smith at psmith@townofchapelhill.org or 968-2760 ext. 134.

SAVE A LIFE with the May Blood Drive from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 23, in the Transit Training Room. Make an appointment with Lynne Wade at 969-5029 or lwade@townofchapelhill.org. Remember to drink lots of water before donating and bring a photo ID.

The **Fire Department** has been approved by the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission to be a fire curriculum delivery agency. With this accreditation, curriculum programs and classes for certification can be conducted by the Fire Department without going through Durham Technical Community College. The Fire Department will continue to offer specialized classes through DTCC when needed.

Apply for Y Family Membership.

Town employees who are members of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Y have teamed up to raise funds for an annual family membership for a qualifying Town staff member.

The fundraising effort will contribute to the Y's We Build People Campaign, which is designed to strengthen the community through health and well-being. Each year, the Y provides numerous scholarships to qualifying families that would otherwise be unable to afford the membership. The value of the annual family membership is \$806.

Apply by May 1 for the Y's Financial Assistance Program. Go online to www.chcymca.org or drop by the Y at 980 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. On the form, note that you are a Town of Chapel Hill employee. The Y will conduct a drawing and one of the qualifying applicants who are Town of Chapel Hill employees will be selected for the special scholarship that is funded by his or her fellow employees.

There are no plans to announce the selected employee's name. We hope you will join us in getting fit together at the Y! To learn more, contact Member Services at the Y. Thanks to those who contributed.



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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.

Budget Planning: This year's budget will be a team effort of the SMT. The Council's priority is no tax increase. Town Manager Roger Stancil's priorities are:

- Continue the Healthcare Initiative
- Continue implementation of Ombuds program
- No lay-offs
- No changes in benefits
- No tax increase as requested by council
- Pay and Classification Study funding needed
- Comprehensive Plan funding needed
- Pay increase if possible

Town Values: A joint meeting of the SMT and the Employee Forum is scheduled for April 18 to continue the discussion about developing Town Values.

Affordable Housing Survey: Employees are encouraged to complete a survey by April 29 (see p. 4) that will provide information to develop a new Town strategy on this topic.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: All departments will be involved in next year's observance. If you have event or activity ideas, please contact Maggie Burnett.

Health Care Initiative: The SMT and GMT groups and the Employee Forum met on March 11 with UNC representative Dr. Warren Newton on the health care initiative. A staff team of Jackie Carden, Jim Orr and Heather Robinson have managed and moved the process along.

Employee Training: Microsoft classes in intermediate level Word and Excel will begin in early May. The full-day classes will be on three Tuesdays for one course and three Thursdays for the other course. Participating employees will be chosen by department heads.

On the Front Burner

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Ombuds. The employee committee I appointed, led by Jim Huegerich and Loryn Clark, continues to work with Wayne Blair, the UNC Ombuds, to develop a program for Town employees. They hope to be able to share the plans by the end of June.

Compliments



Vada Bailey (Transit) was thanked by Carol "Winter" Grant for stopping to wait for her. "He was also extremely pleasant to me, and I really appreciate his courtesy in all respects."

The Landscape crew was commended by **Lynne Wade** (HRD) for doing a great job removing snow and ice. "Kudos to your whole team! Thank you so much!"

Eli Lack and **Anthony Elliott** (both Transit) were thanked by Pat Brant for helping retrieve a backpack that was left at a bus stop. "I do hope, that all who were involved in helping me, will get the recognition which they so rightly deserve."

Jessie Cameron, Ty Edwards and **Deborah Davis** (both Transit) were thanked by Michelle Kurkowski for returning a lost wallet. "I wanted to compliment them for going above and beyond in their jobs."

Michelle Sykes (Transit) was thanked by Dwight Tilley for excellent service and a positive attitude. "She was very helpful and SUPER nice."

Kumar Neppalli and **Robert Myers** (Traffic Engineering) were complimented by Burwell Ware for improving traffic flow. "I am grateful that the staff is so responsive."

Doug Sutton, David Park, Malcolm Hester and **Lonnie Harp** (all Fire) were thanked by Shana Judge for visiting the child care program at Frank Porter Graham. "It made a such a positive impression on my son – and on me!"

Deborah Yancey and **Gloria Murchison** (both Transit) were thanked by Mirta Mihovilovic for providing exceptional service.

Tyrell Chambers (Transit) was complimented by Roger Lundblad for helping an elderly passenger find the correct bus for her destination. "The driver demonstrated exceptional patience and courtesy."

Scott Watkins thanked Public Works crews for leaf collection. "Your team does great work, they always get all of my leaves, and they are all business."

David Cheek and **Robert Bosworth** (both Fire) were thanked by Sharon Jones for assisting with finding the owner of a lost dog. "Thank you and all the men and women that continue to serve our city."

Jessie Cameron (Transit) was complimented by Hanna Ali. "He was friendly and considerate and really made my day."

Eli Lack (Transit) was commended by Daniel Jackson for his patience and professionalism in dealing with an abusive passenger. "I thought the driver did an excellent job of handling a difficult situation."

Lonnie Clark (Transit) was complimented by Lee Kay for his calmness and excellent driving skills when the bus experienced mechanical problems. "Much kudos to the bus driver- thank you for keeping us safe and getting us to campus on time! Also kudos for **Tom Williams** (Transit) who saw the disabled bus, volunteered to turn his bus around at the end of his route and rescue the passengers and drivers!"

Akalema Pherribo (Transit) was complimented by Jewel Hicks Perkins for being kind and caring. "Kindness like that is almost unheard of."

Tommy Simmons, Keith Alston and **Kendall High** (all Fire) were commended by Brook Mowbray for their response to woman suffering a cardiac arrest. "You have an outstanding group of employees."

Stan Norwood (Transit) was complimented by Mary Deifer for doing an exceptional job. "It is always a joy to ride on the bus when he is driving, and he is such a pleasant face to see in the morning."

Joe Farrington (Public Works) was thanked by Diana Hersh for assistance in cleaning Birch Circle.

Joseph Ayscue (Inspections) was thanked by Mark H. Fasser for efficiency in the inspections process. "Please extend my thanks to your people."

Wendy Smith (Stormwater) thanked the **Fire Department** for calling Stormwater when they noticed grease disposal from a downtown restaurant in a storm drain. It gave Stormwater staff the opportunity to educate the managers of the restaurant about proper disposal and water pollution prevention, as well as to contact the right people to have the drain cleaned out and maintained to prevent flooding.

Call the Stormwater Management Division at 969-RAIN (7246) if you witness or suspect dumping in storm drains. Storm drains lead directly to creeks without treatment. All creeks in Chapel Hill flow into Jordan Lake, a drinking water supply and major wildlife and recreation area that we need to protect.

Fellow Employees: It's CRUNCH TIME!

The Be Active -Town of Chapel Hill Fitness Challenge officially kicked off on Monday, March 7, with 115 employees on the roster. The Challenge began the week prior with Be Active's Annie Martinie traveling to each department to help employees complete five fitness assessments. For 12 weeks, challenge participants will be logging their physical activity minutes and muscle-building activities in hopes of improving their assessment results and earning points toward great prizes. The challenge also includes weekly informational emails from Be Active with physical activity facts, resources and sample workouts, as well as a survey where participants enter their progress.

Employees earn points for reaching 150 minutes a week of physical activity, performing two muscle-building activities a week, attending lunch and learns and

improving on their fitness assessments. Everyone who participates will be entered into a drawing for prizes at the end of the Challenge, but those who earn 1000 points or more or improve by more than 10 percent on their fitness assessments will be guaranteed a prize. Prizes will include at-home workout equipment, gym bags, water bottles, gas cards, Visa gift cards, gym memberships, gift certificates to sporting goods stores and more!

Congratulations to those of you who have taken advantage of this great opportunity to get more active and improve your health! If you're interested in participating but didn't get a change to sign up, or if you completed the fitness assessment, but have not yet entered your physical



activity minutes, please contact Annie Martinie at annie@beactivencc.org.

Save the Dates!

Lunch And Learns will be offered on the following dates:

April 28: Boosting Metabolism and Preventing Plateaus: noon to 1 p.m., Transit Training Room
May 26: Strength Training and Flexibility Concepts

Fire Department Receives Award

The Fire Department was chosen to receive an award for "Best Creative Activity" at the NC Safe Kids Conference for the Fire Place community public safety education space and programs at Meadowmont. NC State Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin (right) presented the award to Deputy Chief **Matt Lawrence** (left).

UNC Hospital also deserves a share of this award because their partnership makes this outreach effort possible.



Fire Retirees Luncheon

The annual Fire Retiree Luncheon was held on April 19 at The Fire Place in Meadowmont. There were 23 well-seasoned retirees present. Thanks to **Chris Bradley** for coordinating the event along with **Matt Lawrence, Kendall High, Barry McLamb, Emily Dondero, Jeff Ryan, Charlie Powell, Gordon Shatley**, the crew from B shift's Station 4 and a host of Fire Department family members who aided in the success of this event.

Longevity Awards

Employees with more than 20 years of service were honored at a ceremony on Dec. 3. For a list of honorees, visit www.townofchapelhill.org/index.aspx?page=1716

Affordable Housing Survey

The Housing and Neighborhood Services division of the Planning Department is in the process of developing an Affordable Housing Strategy, one of the Council's goals for 2010-2011. The purpose of the Strategy is to build a more comprehensive understanding of the affordable housing system in Chapel Hill. A Strategy would also allow the Town Council to consider affordable housing issues in the context of the full spectrum of affordable housing needs and resources that exist throughout the Town.

Town employees are asked to complete a short online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/KV7CYWK by Friday, April 29. Paper copies of the survey are available to employees who do not have access to email.

Are your nails ready?

Town employees are ready for spring! Can you guess who these colorful toes belong to?



*Top right: Jeanette Taylor
Top left: Louise Pettis
Bottom: Chelsea Laws*