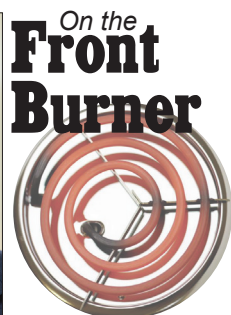




CHAPEL HILL

# TownTalk

MAY 2021  
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 7



## *Town Manager Maurice Jones*

Warmer temperatures mean summer is quickly approaching. With COVID-19 numbers falling, and vaccine numbers rising, restrictions continue to be lifted, opening up the possibilities to get out and fellowship once again.

Late spring means we are deep into budget season. If you've been following

along, the Council has asked for a few adjustments that we're working on, including the new tax rate. One thing Council has supported since I presented my recommended budget was the pay increase for employees. I'm happy to say it looks like we'll be able to provide Town staff a 3% of market increase for Fiscal Year 2021–2022. Business Management will send out information about the adjustment soon after the Council passes the budget on June 9th.

We are also entering into vacation season. I recently sent an email informing everyone of the postponement once again of the rollover deadline for vacation time. We want everyone to have the opportunity to safely enjoy some well-

earned time away without restrictions. The way things are trending, the end of this calendar year should provide that opportunity, so please plan now on how you're going to use your hours before rollover on Jan. 1, 2022.

Lastly, I wanted to take another opportunity to encourage everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine. The science shows us the vaccines are working. The vaccine protects you from, at the very least, the worst of the coronavirus symptoms. It also limits the spread of the virus.

The sooner we can increase the vaccination percentage, the sooner we can feel more comfortable about safely reopening our facilities to more Town staff

*(continued on p 3)*



National Public Works Week, May 16–22, celebrated the importance of Public Works in community life. See p. 2 for more.

## CELEBRATING PUBLIC WORKS

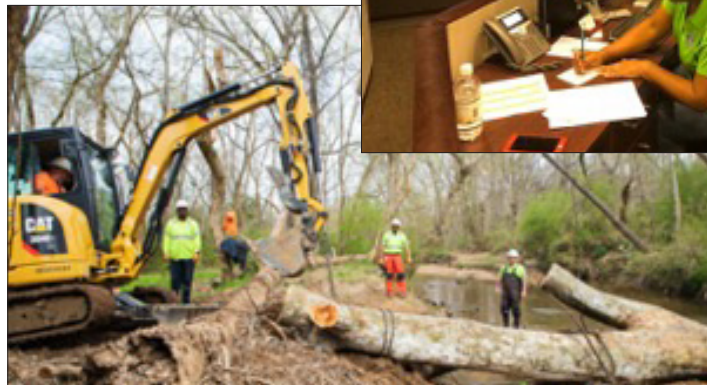
National Public Works Week, May 16–22, celebrated the importance of Public Works in community life. Public Works helps make Chapel Hill a great place to live. The department has achieved great successes in a challenging year.

Public Works employees provide and maintain the infrastructure and services that keep the town running. They work in trucks and on ladders – or behind telephones, shovels, brooms, tree clippers, lawn mowers and jackhammers. Their activities include collecting garbage, paving streets, patching potholes, landscaping, maintaining parks, constructing streets and sidewalks, and maintaining public buildings and town vehicles.

Public Works includes Administration, Solid Waste, Streets & Construction, Facilities, Fleet, Engineering & Stormwater, and Traffic Engineering.



*"Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to preserve and beautify the Town of Chapel Hill." —Lance Norris, Director of Public Works*



## JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL

A coalition of local organizations invites the community to be a part of the first annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro Juneteenth Celebration. The event will celebrate Black community and culture through arts performances, history exhibits, kids activities, and more.

Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. The Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro proclaimed the observance and commemoration of Juneteenth on June 19, 2020 and encouraged residents and employers to recognize the holiday.

This year's event will be mostly virtual, starting with an online video premiere at 7 p.m. Friday, June 18. Other events include a Juneteenth Motorcade at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 19, local music performances online and in person, and virtual storytimes throughout the weekend.

More information: [chapelhillcarrborojuneteenth.com](https://chapelhillcarrborojuneteenth.com).



## Briefs

Congratulations to **Bobby Bratton** (Transit) for completing the Advanced Roads Scholar Program. The program recognizes local government employees who have significantly increased their knowledge of road maintenance procedures and improved their technical and managerial skills.

Thanks to **Cortney Fisher** (Police) for leading a training for a group of volunteers with Orange County Rape Crisis Center. Cortney provided a training on the various reporting options for sexual assault victims as well as information on how best to support victims who are in active crisis. Cortney received excellent feedback from the volunteers and did a great job of ensuring the volunteers were aware of the ways in which the Crisis Unit is able to support victims.



**Erin Jobe** (Community Arts & Culture) and husband Woody welcomed a

beautiful new member to the Jobe clan on April 13 – Nola Hailie. Erin says “she’s perfect and we are all doing well!”

Welcome to new employee **Evana Paylor** (Building and Development Services), who will be working in the Permit Center.

Congratulations to **Nick Pittman** (Transit) on being accepted into the highly competitive 2021 Transportation Senior Executive (TSE) program. Nick is also a 2017 graduate of Eno’s Mid-Manager Leadership Development program.

**Mike Simms** has joined the Manager’s Office as the UNC School of Government Intern. Welcome, Mike!



## STOP-THINK-CLICK

The recent cyberattack on the Colonial Pipeline is a stark reminder of how a cyberattack can affect us all. Email is the #1 delivery method of choice for criminals that deliver destructive cyberattacks to organizations.

Everyone in the Town does a great job of being cautious with unexpected and suspicious email. Please continue to be extra cautious with email links and attachments and report email messages that you feel are suspicious to Technology Solutions.

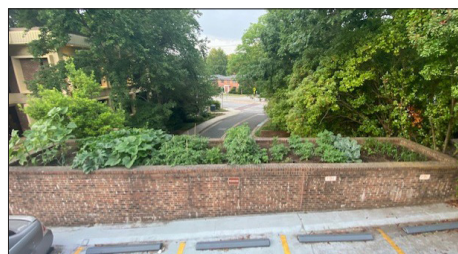
Remember to STOP, THINK, and then CLICK to help keep our network safe from cyberattacks.

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG

**Kendall High** (Fire) saw the vacant flower box between Fire Station 1 and Town Hall (along the top level of the parking deck) that had been neglected and taken over by weeds and wild growth. He took the idea of a garden to Chief **Vencelin Harris** (Fire). Chief Harris approved the plan he asked High to develop, and the results far exceeded High’s expectations.

High met with Parks & Recreation staff who said they would be happy to support the efforts where needed. Firefighters, including **Brian Dunagin** and **James Gerringer**, have taken time when they are off the clock to pull weeds, water, and tend to the garden.

Apparently the time that the flower box was left to go wild did the soil



good, because the plants have taken off. Firefighters have had multiple meals with spinach—to a point that they are ready for a break. Tomatoes were spotted on May 25. High said they also have a good crop of basil and zucchini.

High said he never envisioned the garden just for fire staff. You can contact Station 1, let staff know which vegetables you’re interested in, and—based on availability—they will pick, wash, and prepare the produce for you to pick up.

## ON THE FRONT BURNER

*(continued from p 1)*

and the public. We will do so cautiously, and we will give Town staff at least 30-days’ notice to allow you to plan for these changes. When you receive your vaccine, please share that information with your HRD partner.

Thank you all for your continued efforts to support the important work the Town of Chapel Hill does each and every day.

## WHAT IS GENDER?

If you want to talk about gender, you should start by knowing what it is.

What it's not is biological. The biological category assigned to us based on our genetics and genitalia is called sex. We think these categories are simple and objective, but there's more variety to people's organs and chromosomes than we think, and doctors have to use their judgment in categorizing us.

Gender is a social identity we choose for ourselves. It's a form of self expression that society uses to decide how to treat us—what language to use, what expectations to have, and how much respect we deserve. Gender is usually on a spectrum between feminine and masculine, but not always.

We'll talk more about gender identities in the future. Questions or suggestions? Email [sslayer@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:sslayer@townofchapelhill.org). And, stay tuned to social media because we are sharing details about #SmallTownPride.



## TIPS FOR OFFICE 365!

Did you know you can use Office365 applications like OneDrive and SharePoint in place of independent file sharing apps like Google Drive and Dropbox? OneDrive and SharePoint not only allow employees to access documents from offsite locations or from multiple devices, but they also allow you to collaborate on files with people both inside and outside the organization. This can help better manage projects, multiple files, and improve efficiency when all project-related content is available in one spot.

The electronic file retention in Office365 should also be treated similarly to the paper files you create. The state's records schedule, which tells you how long to keep a particular type of record, is located here: <https://tinyurl.com/recordschedule>. For any questions or assistance in managing your records, please contact [mdebells@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:mdebells@townofchapelhill.org).



## Five Types of Insurance You Should Know About

	Preserve Income in Case of a Medical Issue		Leave Money for Survivors	Protect Your Property	
	Long-Term Disability	Long-Term Care	Life	Renter's	Liability Umbrella
What it pays	About 60% of earnings if you're unable to work because of illness or injury	Helps cover cost of nursing care, at-home assistance, or other types of care	Lump sum when insured person dies	Compensates tenants for property loss	Money for legal fees and a court settlement, if you or someone in your household is sued
Who needs it	Someone who depends on earned income	People who don't want to risk spending most of their assets on late-life care	Anyone others rely on for income or unpaid labor, or who wants to clear debt and leave money for survivors	People who rent	Anyone with assets to protect beyond homeowner and auto liability limits
How to buy it	Through employer, or possibly through a professional association	Through employer or independent agents	Through employer or websites like NetQuote or ValueQuote. Term life is a simpler, cheaper option.	Through your vehicle insurer or from a website like QuoteWizard or ValuePenguin	Insurers that sell insurance for both auto and home
What it costs	1 to 3% of your earnings	Varies according to age and gender	Varies based on health and age	\$15 to \$30 per month, depending on location and value of your possessions	A \$1 million policy costs \$150 to \$300 per year

AARP Bulletin, July/August 2020

# Compliments

On May 6, three Transit team members helped 911 and the Police Department locate a missing elderly man. **Javius Newman** answered a call from 911, who requested assistance in locating a missing 81-year-old man. Newman informed all transit operators so that they could look out for the missing person. **Kim Porter** noticed a man fitting the description while driving the N route and reported this to Newman, who dispatched **Tommy Hall**, who stayed with the missing man until a member of the Chapel Hill Police Department arrived. Newman, Porter and Hall all showed exceptional teamwork and responsiveness.

Brittany Johnson (Police) would like to send a HUGE Thank You to **Wes House** (Police). When her wedding band fell down the sink drain at the Police Department, Wes volunteered to check the p-trap. He was able to remove the pipe and Brittany's ring fell out. Thanks, Wes, for going above and beyond!

**Sammy Bauer** (Stormwater) was thanked by John Richardson (Sustainability) for a great presentation! "The framing, graphics, and enthusiasm were all excellent!"



Thanks to the **Parks & Recreation landscaping crew** for leveling the area around the new Bird Blind outside the library, which was donated to the Town by New Hope Audubon Society.

**Jun Gim** (Police) was thanked by Alexa Schein for handling a harassment complaint efficiently and professionally. "This was my first interaction with CHPD and I felt comfortable throughout the process. He is to be commended."

**Alisha Goldstein** (Stormwater) was thanked by Mayor Pam Hemminger for giving a presentation at a council meeting that explained stormwater options for the Aura development.

Thanks to **Anita Badrock** (HRD) for helping lead library staff training on de-escalating difficult situations.



Thanks to **John Richardson** (Sustainability) and intern **Nate Worley** for pitching in on a very rainy day to help staff a Hard 2 Recycle event as part of the Town's "April is for the Earth" Earth Day celebrations.

Transit team members were thanked by Carrboro Fire Chief David Schmidt for assisting Carrboro Fire Department as they responded to a fire at Poplar Place on May 24: **Joe McMiller, Richard Roberts, Doranda Cole, Tierra Boone, Cheonna Boyd, Matt Rahimzadeh, and Betty Poole**.

Transit supervisors offered buses and assistance. Transit deployed several buses to assist residents who were displaced by the fire and provide a cooling vehicle for firefighters and other first responders.

**Rand Hagans** and **Justin Graves** (both Transit) went the extra mile to help an EZ Rider passenger who was tired and confused after a physical therapy session. Rand and Justin took extra time to help the passenger move safely from the vehicle to his house. Rand kept a calm demeanor and voice, which helped the customer and put his wife at ease.

Together with Justin they helped the customer move safely to the vehicle lift, and Rand rode the lift down with the customer to keep him steady and talked with him to keep him comfortable.

Justin went up to the couple's home to retrieve a wheelchair and they helped the customer into his home. The onboard video from this trip will become training tools. Well done Rand and Justin!





## WELLNESS CLINIC CHANGES

The Wellness Clinic has begun staffed hours. The clinic will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Other times are available by appointment (call 919-968-2796).

Clinic staff are excited to see you again! While clinic staff have remained available throughout the pandemic, first contact with employees has started with a phone call. But with the improvement in community conditions, clinic staff are eager to return to staffed clinic hours.

Please note that as a healthcare facility, face masks will be required in the Wellness Clinic.

Clinic staff ask that the following persons call before coming in:

- Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
- Anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Anyone who has any COVID-like symptoms

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As summer is quickly approaching, coronavirus numbers are improving and restrictions continue to be lifted. The mask mandate remains in place for all Town staff and visitors in Town facilities and vehicles.

Employees may remove their masks if they are fully vaccinated, are outdoors, and are able to maintain proper physical distance (at least six feet) from other non-household members (staff or public). However, masks must remain easily accessible and available to quickly replace it when you need to.

Vaccinations are strongly recommended for all Town staff and their family members that are eligible.



### FREE Tobacco Cessation Program for Town Employees

Free Medication  
Free Support

Convenient Location  
(Or video/phone contact)

For more information or to enroll:  
Phone or Text: (919) 904-4848  
Email: [barbara\\_silver@med.unc.edu](mailto:barbara_silver@med.unc.edu)



### SOLVING THE PUZZLE OF MOVING MORE!

The 5-week challenge starts June 14! Earn points for being physically active AND earn bonus points for solving the Moving More crossword puzzle.

You will receive weekly tips and ideas to help you increase your levels of physical activity. Complete the tips and earn points! Complete the Moving More Crossword Puzzle and earn bonus points!

Everyone who participates will be entered into drawings for prizes! To sign up, email Liska Lackey at [llackey@email.unc.edu](mailto:llackey@email.unc.edu).

## CYBERSECURITY TIPS



### PHISHING DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!

Phishing is a form of social engineering in which ID thieves trick people into providing their personal information by pretending to be someone they're not.

