



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

January 2010
Vol. 6, No. 5

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

The Public Works Employee Advisory Committee has refined the Day of Dialog Diversity statement to encompass all Town of Chapel Hill Employees. This statement has been passed onto the Town Employee Forum to include in their effort to work with the Senior Management Team to define Town values. I encourage you to read Public Work's statement of Diversity, shown below:

Strength Through Diversity

"The Town of Chapel Hill encourages individual accountability to demonstrate an open mind to acceptance and communicate with respect and dignity to all."

Key points of the statement are:

- Respect
- Dignity
- Open minded to acceptance
- Accountability
- Communication

"The Town of Chapel Hill embraces and believes that all employees are entitled to respect, regardless of color, disability, gender, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation. All employees will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of the position they hold within the Town's organizational structure. Each person is expected to discourage prejudice in any form, and strive to maintain a work climate based on mutual respect and understanding. The Town believes that all employees have inherent value, whether or not you agree with who they are, or how they may identify themselves, and that all employees are deserving of respect. The Town of Chapel Hill will not practice, nor tolerate discriminatory acts and disrespect by any employee. The Town of Chapel Hill recognizes its employees are its most valuable asset, and therefore provides all employees the opportunity for personal and professional growth through training, team effort, personal responsibility and accountability, continued education when applicable and possible, positive and open communications, and a forthright approach to solving problems."

As you can see these words align with the currently discussed Values well. Let your Forum representative know what you think.

Jean-Luc Kirk

Patrol Officer

Joined Town: Sept. 5, 1995

As a patrol officer, Kirk is the first contact with the public. Patrol officers conduct traffic stops or respond to 911 calls, gather initial information and pass it along to investigators if needed. Kirk loves his profession and is glad to be helpful to people.

Kirk was chosen as Chapel Hill's Police Officer of the Year for maintaining a high standard of excellence in his work, including his involvement in renovating the COP Shop and in representing the Police Department across the state at the funerals of fallen officers as commander of the Honor Guard.

Kirk says that the most challenging part of the job is the unknown. Even a familiar situation can become dangerous. He has done more traffic stops than anything else in his career, but traffic stops are the most dangerous things police officers do because they have no prior knowledge about the situation. A simple traffic stop can turn out to be a robbery or murder suspect. Many officers get hit by cars during traffic stops because drivers aren't paying attention.

Kirk likes to share knowledge with other officers to improve their professional lives. Field training gives an opportunity for more experienced officers to teach trainees what they need to know to be successful.

Kirk was born in Kirksville, Mo., and has lived all over the south, including Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky. He moved to

Value in the Spotlight

Innovation

open-minded • courageous • learning
curious • flexible • change-oriented
idea development • risk taking



Melanie Miller photo

Wilmington in 1979. He is very proud of serving in the Navy in the first Gulf War.

When not working, he likes to spend time with friends, do yard work, fish, or tinker. Other hobbies include engraving wine bottles and photography. Some of his lighthouse photos may be used on a wine bottle label.

Our Value: "Jean-Luc is a creative thinker. As the Commander of our Police Honor Guard, he led the design of the Unit's new uniforms and has also developed a training and procedures manual for the Unit that is quite comprehensive. His willingness to think about ways to improve our service delivery is commendable."

—Chris Blue, Assistant Police Chief-Administrations

COMING UP

Thursday, Jan. 28: Climbing Wall Dedication, 11 a.m., Chapel Hill Community Center

Thursday, Jan. 28: Lunch and Learn: Tax Time (see page 2 for more information)

Jan. 29-30: Council Planning Retreat

Tuesday, Feb. 2: Public Information Session on Affordable Housing, 5 p.m., Town Hall

Saturday, Feb. 6: Community Conversation on police services, 10 a.m., Chapel Hill Public Library



Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day are (front, L-R) Roger Stancil, Robert Campbell, (back, L-R) Howard Smith, Joe Farrington, Anthony Wayne Harris, Larry Stroud and Ken Davis.

In Brief

Chris Blue (Police) received a WCHL Radio Village Pride Award on Jan. 8. This award recognizes individuals who do extraordinary things that make this community an even better place to live.

Karen Rose (Police) has been chosen as the Police Department's Crime Analyst. Karen has been employed with the Police Department for 16 years. She will begin her new duties on Jan. 26.

The Chamber of Commerce honored community heroes on Dec. 11, including **Patrick Spencer** (Fire), firefighter of the year, and **Jean-Luc Kirk** (Police), police officer of the year. Please see page 1 for feature story about Officer Kirk. We will profile Firefighter Spencer in a future issue.



Through the generous support of members, **Chapel Hill Fire Fighters Local 2580** was able to bring some happiness to a local family. Members donated money to adopt a family and provide gifts and to bring their rent current, avoiding a possible eviction. They also helped two other families stay a little warmer during the winter by volunteering time and resources to cut, split and deliver firewood.



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



Another new storefront for Franklin Street – An art gallery named **FRANK** opened at 109 E. Franklin St. last month, thanks to a lease agreement with Michael Brader-Araje and a Small Art Business Loan from the Town of Chapel Hill. A non-profit group of 25 artists formed the artists collective to establish the gallery.

TIME FOR W2s: Employees should receive their W-2 forms by Jan. 31. If you have not received yours or have questions, please check in with your payroll/benefit representative or call Emily Dipierro at 969-5028.



Jump-start your weekend with Saturday morning **ZUMBA FITNESS CLASSES** for ages 15 and older. A new session begins at 8:45 a.m. Saturday,

Feb. 6. The fee for each six-week session is \$36 for residents of Chapel Hill or Orange County, or \$43 for non-residents.

Zumba will also be offered on Monday nights from 6 to 7 p.m. beginning Feb. 15 in the Chapel Hill Community Center Meeting Room.

For more information or to register, visit www.townofchapelhill.org/register, call 968-2784 or visit the Parks and Recreation administrative office at 200 Plant Road.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS to TOWNtalk! The next deadline is Feb. 2 for the February issue, scheduled to be published on Feb. 12. Send submissions to publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org or call 968-2743.

GET READY FOR APRIL 15 with a special tax time Lunch and Learn program from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, in the Transit Training Room. Learn which expenses should be tracked annually, how to decipher tax lingo, and when to file an itemized claim versus taking the standard deduction. You'll also learn about helpful resources to assist with your tax preparation — along with those "resources" to avoid.

A light healthy lunch will be provided. Register by noon Monday, Jan. 25. Email Lynne Wade in the Human Resource Development Department (lwade@townofchapelhill.org) or call 968-2700.

More wellness programs are on the way — look for a Wellness Calendar of Events to be published later this month.

TOWN PLANNING RETREAT SCHEDULED JAN. 29-30. The Chapel Hill Town Council will meet Jan. 29-30 for a Town Planning Retreat to discuss the Council's goals for the coming year. The Town Planning Retreat begins with a Friday dinner including an overview of 2009 activity highlights, and launches into detailed discussions at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the new Education Center at the NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Road.

The discussion on Saturday will focus on developing action steps for the goals the Council has set for the past three years: Steward Organizational Culture Change; Champion Downtown; Continue Focus on Land Use, Transit and Development; Maintain and Improve Community Facilities and Services; Improve Town's Fiscal Condition; and Plan Ahead for Carolina North.

TOWNtalk, a publication for and about Town of Chapel Hill employees, is issued monthly September through June.
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Please recycle with white paper.



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Employee Forum

The Employee Forum is an advisory committee to the Town Manager consisting of supervisory and non-supervisory employees who are elected by their peers. New employee representatives were elected to the Employee Forum during the election process held September through November.

The Employee Forum meets on the second Thursday of every month. If you have issues, concerns or questions that you would like to be addressed by the Employee Forum, please bring them to your representative.

2010 Employee Forum Members

Ed Bunker (Transit)
Tony Combs (Transit)
Richard Roberts (Transit)
Graeme McCullough (Transit)
Kay McDaniel (Public Works)
Angie Turner (Public Works)
Audrey Gattis (Public Works)
Charlie Pardo (Police)
Sheleathe Quick (Police)
Lee Sparrow (Police)
John Richardson (CaPA, Legal, Management)
Roger Mills (Parks and Recreation)
Mike West (Parks and Recreation)
Kristi McClellan (Library)
Lynne Wade (HRD Representative)
Frances Russell (HRD Liason)
Sabrina Farrar (Housing)
Ross Thompkins (Business Management)
Kenny Dixon (Fire)
Heather Robinson (Fire)
Buck Johnson (Engineering)
Scott Simmons (Planning)

Welcome, New Employees!

Timothy Beamon (Transit), Transit Operator
Jonathan Powell (Fire), Firefighter
Donald Bunting (Public Works), Senior Mechanical Building Inspector
Tiffany Hoy (Transit), EZ Rider
Ali Hinks (Public Works), Administrative Clerk



Compliments

Tim Beamon (Transit) was complimented by Shannon Blevins for his excellent driving skills and professionalism. "I have been riding your buses for three years now and I have to say this fellow was the best driver I have ever had."

Jacqueline Brown (Transit) received a compliment from Lindsay Morris for being friendly and helpful. "It was so nice to see a smiling face not only after working 13 hours but at the end of her route. Thanks so much for all you guys do to provide such great people who are willing to serve the community!"

Tracy Dudley (Parking) was thanked by Kelly Jo Bricca for her good customer service and positive attitude. "It might have been the only time I've ever smiled while paying a ticket! Thanks to Tracy and to Chapel Hill for employing wonderful people like her!"

Teresa Oliver (Transit) was thanked by Pete Petrin. "I can't thank you enough for what you did this morning. I'm grateful that you waited for me and then handed me a bag of candy... indeed it was my lucky day." **Oliver** was also complimented by Stephanie Willen Brown. "She's been a great driver—just about the same time every day, and very polite and friendly."

Laronda Shipmon (Transit) was commended by Adele Hite for assisting a passenger in finding the correct bus. "She is unfailingly polite and a conscientious driver, but I thought her actions today were above and beyond the call of duty."

Beth Godwin and other riders of the 420 bus to Hillsborough complimented **Teresa Oliver** and **Laronda Shipmon** (both Transit). Of Oliver, they said, "She is an excellent driver, and provides excellent customer service." Shipmon "is a wonderful driver and representative of the town."

Janice Hooker and **Annie Brown** (both Transit) were thanked by a resident of Montclair, N.J., for helping her find her way back to the Siena hotel. "Thank you both for such kind help!! Kudos to your driving staff!"

Jan Vallero thanked **Jacob Sinkiewicz** and **Chris Stephens** (both Fire) for assisting with the installation of a child safety seat. "It is a very comforting feeling to know we are in the care of such dedicated and courteous professionals."

Adam Smith (Parks and Recreation) thanked **Greg Ling** and other Public Works staff for going out of their way to handle a problem after regular working hours. "I really appreciate their enthusiasm and assistance, especially those who were not on-call, in handling the problem."

Bob Henshaw expressed his appreciation for the **Communications and Public Affairs Department's** quick creation of Council meeting summaries. "To the person who turned around this summary of last night's late Council meeting so promptly, I am totally impressed!"

Recycling

If you've already burned out all the batteries from your Christmas or Hanukkah toys and wonder what to do with them, please take them to the battery recycling drop off sites at any of the five Solid Waste Convenience Centers, any Weaver Street Market location, Whole Foods or Radio Shack.

Beginning Feb. 2, the Bradshaw Quarry Road Convenience Center will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. It will be closed the remaining days of the week. The four other convenience centers will continue to operate from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

—Blair Pollock, Orange County Solid Waste Management

Green Tips

Give your appliances a rest! When you run your dishwasher, avoid the energy-intensive drying or "heat" cycle and instead select the "air-dry" feature or prop the door open after the cycle is complete. This can reduce your annual household energy load by two percent, eliminating about 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

When you do laundry, select the cold water option. Most modern washing machines and detergents clean clothes effectively at any temperature, so choosing the cold water setting will save about half the energy as compared to a hot water cycle. If hot water is a must, use cold water for the rinse cycle. This can reduce your household energy load by seven percent, eliminating about 1,680 pounds of carbon dioxide.

2009 Year in Review



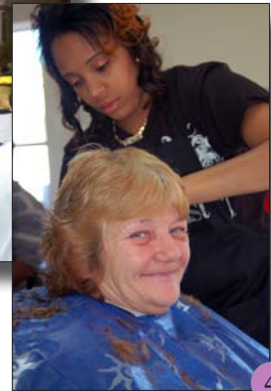
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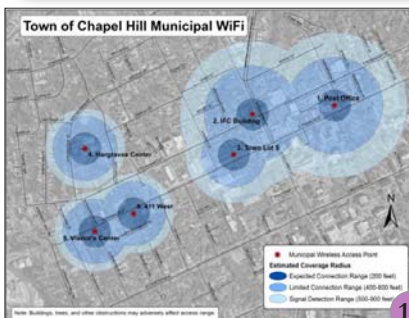
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We had a busy year serving the Chapel Hill community beginning with (photos, left to right, clockwise) the opening of the new (1) **Aquatic Center** and (2) **Southern Community Park** in January. (3) **Homegrown Halloween** was successfully managed and only saw a slight increase in crowd size. Other events included (4) **Project Homeless Connect**, touching more than 200 people in need, (5) **Earth Action Day**, (6) **Franklin Street Comes Alive**, and (7) the dedication of the **Peace and Justice Plaza**. (8) The first **Cal Horton Service Award** was presented to Larry Stroud. In our greenways, (9) **goats** replaced pesticides to trim weeds. (10) **Visioning Forums** were held to discuss values and visions. (11) **Wireless hotspots** were installed at 25 locations around town. (12) The Town sent its first **Community Survey** to residents in December. (13) Chapel Hill was named **"Most Livable City"** in America for the fare-free transit system.



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