



# TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

April 2010  
Vol. 6, No. 8

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

## A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,  
Town Manager

Have Fun!!

I often greet people or say farewell with that phrase. I recently realized I ought to explain what I mean because the principles behind that are clues to the kind of organization we are striving to become.

I have the most fun at work if I:

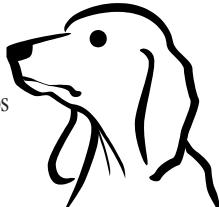
- Understand the Town and department's mission, my work crew's part of that mission and my role in achieving it. How do I help Chapel Hill be a better place to live and work?
- Believe that I can affect how I do my job and the environment in which I do it; that the people I work with will hear my ideas and my experience and be willing to make changes based on that information.
- Know that when I come to work, I will be respected for who I am; that it is our diversity that makes us strong.

Because I am a fairly normal guy, I believe these things are true for you, too. If they are, help me make them come true every day. If we can imagine it, we can make it happen.

Coming Soon...

### Pet Pix!

Send your best pet photos to [publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org). We will publish them in future issues of TOWNtalk.



## Jim Huegerich

**Crisis and Human Services Manager,  
Chapel Hill Police Department**

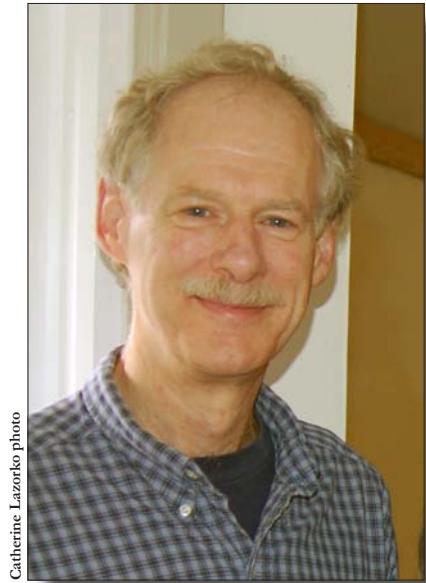
**Joined Town:** Aug. 18, 1975

Jim Huegerich was selected to receive the W. Calvin Horton Service Award for Town employees at an awards ceremony held Thursday, April 22, at Town Hall.

Town Manager Roger L. Stancil and members of the Senior Management Team joined with former Town Manager Cal Horton, Town employees and the Huegerich family to recognize the honoree. Town Manager Stancil selected the honoree for the award, based on information and recommendations from an employee committee comprising Deborah Squires, Dan Jones, Lance Norris, John Newark, Larry Stroud and Loryn Clark.

The award is one of the highest honors the Town of Chapel Hill bestows upon an employee. It is given to a Town employee who brings credit to the Town with exceptional contributions to the community. The employee represents the ideals of public service to citizens and peers in everyday demeanor and actions.

Jim arrived in Chapel Hill in 1974 after serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. In spite of the numerous choices he had for graduate school, he chose to become a Tar Heel not only because of the school's



reputation but also because his family had relocated from the Midwest to Raleigh. He has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., and a master's degree in education from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Upon finishing his master's degree, Jim began working for the Town of Chapel Hill in the Crisis Unit that Mayor Howard Lee had established within the Department of Human Services. It was then and is still today considered a unique concept of combining social work and law enforcement, a model envied by many communities.

## COMING UP

**Saturday, April 24:** HOPE Gardens ribbon cutting, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 2200 Homestead Road

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

**Thursday, May 6:** Premiere of "Johnnie Joins the Fire Department-The Film," noon, Varsity Theater

**Thursday, May 13:** Learn @ Lunch: The Silent Killer—High Blood Pressure

**Friday, May 14:** Service Awards, 10-11:30 a.m., Hargraves Center



The ribbon cutting event for HOPE Gardens community garden and education center on April 24 features workshops on sustainable agriculture and garden art, speakers and fresh food. Information: [unchope.garden@gmail.com](mailto:unchope.garden@gmail.com)

# In Brief



**Jeanne Tate** (Business Management Services) likes daffodils and butter just fine, but she does not like the color yellow. That's why her co-workers donned her least favorite shade and blinded her with its brilliance on April Fool's Day. From l-r that is Zakia Alam, Tripti Dahal, Amy Oland, Matt Brinkley, Ross Tompkins, Katie Reidl, (front) Vanessa Tart and Scott Beavers. Happy Spring, Jeanne!!

**Health assessments** will be conducted on April 28 at TOC Bldg. 1 and on April 29 in the Transit Training Room. Maintain or improve your score to receive Wellness Works incentives. Information: 969-5035

**Register for the SmartCommute challenge** before May 15 and get a chance to win prizes like a foldable bike or a laptop. It's easy to take the challenge — just visit [www.smartcommutechallenge.org](http://www.smartcommutechallenge.org) and pledge at least once before May 15 to ride the bus, bike, walk, vanpool, carpool or work from home. Information: [lcne@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:lcne@townofchapelhill.org)



**Encouraging Public Participation** — The Council Chamber was filled to the brim on April 19 as the Council heard from citizens on the issue of whether Chapel Hill should develop a management program to address the deer population.



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

## Cemetery Gazebo Dedicated

A gazebo at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery will be dedicated in memory of the late Rebecca Clark during a ceremony to be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 24.

Clark died on Jan. 3, 2009, at the age of 93. She was an important local activist for change and betterment in Chapel Hill. Among her many efforts to create a loving and caring community, she worked tirelessly to improve the condition of the Town's cemeteries.

At the time of her passing, she was a member of the newly formed Town of Chapel Hill Cemeteries Advisory Board. In 2006, the Chapel Hill Town Council proclaimed her birthday "Rebecca Clark Day."



*The gazebo at Old Chapel Hill Cemetery will be dedicated in honor of Rebecca Clark.*



## Workplace Safety Update

Use only work-safe appliances (fans, coffee makers, space heaters, etc.). Appliances that are listed by the manufacturer or Underwriters Laboratory (UL) as "Residential Use Only" are generally inappropriate for the workplace. However, NC OSHA and the State Fire Marshal's Office indicate that the employer can evaluate equipment to determine if it is safe to use. During the next 60 days, Safety Committee members will inspect these appliances to determine if they are safe to use.

If you have questions about appliances in your work area, contact a Safety Committee member. You will need the instruction manual or adequate information from a reliable internet source for the appliance to be approved. If the Town Fire Marshal's office ultimately determines that an appliance is unsafe, it must be removed even if it has been previously approved by the Safety Committee.

Members of the Safety Committee are:

**Zakia Alam** (Business Management): 969-5022  
**Samantha Kryder** (Communications and Public Affairs): 969-5015

**Robert Bosworth** (Fire): 928-0116

**Michael Beckman** (Human Resource Development): 960-5035

**Kristi McClellan** (Library): 969-2035

**Andrea Judge** (Parks & Recreation): 968-2836

**Garrett Davis** (Planning): 969-5061

**Chris Blue** (Police): 968-2861

**Ron Aiken** (Public Works): 969-5118

**Dwight Butler** (Transit): 969-4912

Information: [mbeckman@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:mbeckman@townofchapelhill.org) or 969-5035

## Residents Give Town Services High Marks

**Marks** — Chapel Hill services are among the best in the nation, according to a statistically valid townwide survey conducted by the ETC Institute.

The Town of Chapel Hill asked residents in December 2009 for their perception of Town services in the first survey conducted by the Town. Of the 696 residents surveyed:

- 90 percent satisfied with the quality of life in Chapel Hill
- 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)

Data from the survey provides the Town Council and Town staff with vital information on resident perception in a variety of service areas. The results provide information that can be used in daily management decisions, in prioritizing future budget allocations, and in developing future long-range strategic plans. A similar survey is expected to be conducted every two years.

The complete results of the 2009 Community Survey are provided on the website at [www.townofchapelhill.org/survey](http://www.townofchapelhill.org/survey)

The Police Department invites you to "Pig out on the Green" and support Special Olympics North Carolina. The event will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24, on the Southern Village Green. Bring chairs or blankets to sit on and enjoy live music and a silent auction. Admission is \$5 for adults, free for children.

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



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# Compliments



**Mary Blevins** (Fire) was thanked by Roz and Zell McGee for installing new child safety seats after theirs failed to pass inspection. "We are most grateful for her help in assuring that our visiting grandchildren...are transported as safely as possible."

**Curtis Brooks** (Public Works) was commended by Dan Murphy for providing comprehensive information on sidewalk issues. "In the 35 years I have lived in Chapel Hill, this is the most thorough reply I have ever gotten from any official, public or private, on any issue I have expressed concern about."

**Chris Jensen** (Stormwater) and the Stormwater staff were thanked by Caroline Okun for their assistance with a drainage problem. "He is such a wonderful person - very friendly, knowledgeable and helpful! ...Also the crew (Cary was the boss) was very nice and friendly and hardworking. Congratulations on having a great team!"

**Wes Tilghman** (Parks and Recreation) thanked **Vanessa Sanders** (Parking) for her assistance with parking and traffic control for Earth Action Day. "I wanted to ... tell you how much we appreciate your leadership on Saturday. Your willingness to jump in and do whatever it took to keep an orderly parking plan executed was impressive. ...Events like Earth Action Day aren't possible without your help."

**The Fire Department** was thanked by Bruce T. Pagan (Durham Fire Department) for assistance provided after the death of Durham firefighter Brad Roberts in March. "Thank you for a job well done; the Durham Fire Department will not forget your actions."

**SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS** to TOWNTalk! The next deadline is May 4 for the May issue, scheduled to be published on May 14. Send submissions to [publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org) or call 968-2743.

## 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).

**Severe Weather/Hazardous Conditions Policy:** The draft policy was distributed for review and comment. Expected completion of this policy is June 1.

**Workers Compensation Policy:** This draft policy is the next to be finalized.

**Other Policy Updates:** It was reported that the Cash Handling Policy draft is fairly complete; the Grant Policy is next for consideration; the Cell Phone policy is ongoing. Jason Damweber is working on the cell phone and wireless communications initiatives with Jake Jacobstein and will be asking for information from department heads. Town Manager Roger Stancil asks that all department heads give Jason information re: "What do your employees need to communicate in his or her job?"

**Serious Incident Policy:** The Town Manager requested that this policy be redistributed.

Points to emphasize are as follows:

- It is a shared responsibility for all employees of the Town, i.e. if you observe harassment, you must report to your supervisor.
- There is zero tolerance for harassment, discrimination and mistreatment at the Town; action will be taken for violations.
- An experienced, outside investigator has been used in recent cases.

**Compensatory Time Review:** Departments have been asked to submit spreadsheets showing compensatory time policies.

**Council Goals Work Plan:** The Town Manager intends to present this plan to the Town Council on May 24. He will email revised goals to SMT and goalkeepers by April 18. Please review and begin work on your plan if it is your assignment.

**No. One Priority for the Budget:** The Town Manager stated that his top priority for the budget is to take care of the people currently working for the Town, even if it means cutting something else in a department's budget.

**Congratulations to Parks and Recreation** and other departments involved in Earth Action Day! The events held on April 10 weekend were a great success. The Town Manager extended his thanks to many employees.

## Recycling



Recycle confidential paper without risking identify theft at the Shred a Thon, for Chapel Hill and Orange County residents and local government employees.

Bring your paper to be shredded from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at the recycling drop-off site behind Home Depot in Hillsborough. There is a limit of 10 boxes. Please remove any plastic bags, plastic binders, folders, computer disks, laminated paper or any other non-paper materials prior to bringing loads to the Shred-a-thon. Staples or paper clips are acceptable.

Orange County Solid Waste Management needs recycling volunteers for Carrboro Day May 2, Farm to Fork Picnic May 23 and Hog Day June 19–20. Call Muriel Williman at 968-2788 or email [recycling@co.orange.nc.us](mailto:recycling@co.orange.nc.us).

—Blair Pollock, Orange County Solid Waste Management

## Employee Forum



The April Employee Forum meeting was held at Homestead Aquatics Center. Town Manager Roger Stancil met with the Forum to give an update on budget issues and healthcare. The Sustainable Operations and Services (SOS) committee gave an update. Valerie Meicher and Beckman (both HRD) met with the Forum to discuss the wellness plan and the use of Town facilities.

The next meeting will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, May 13, in the large conference room at Public Works Building 1. All employees are welcome, but attendance by non-representatives is voluntary, is not reportable as work time and must not conflict with work assignments.

# Cal Horton Award Presented to Jim Huegerich

(continued from page 1)

Jim's first call took place on a Sunday morning. His pager began to beep, and he nervously searched for a pay phone. He was directed to meet an officer at the home of a mental health worker. After this troubling call, Jim shared with his wife Tricia that he did not feel he was capable of or cut out for the job. But he persevered ... for 35 years. Countless people's lives have been touched through Jim's ability to work through crisis situations. In addition to Jim being recognized statewide as an expert in crisis counseling, he has also been recognized nationally as an expert in the field.

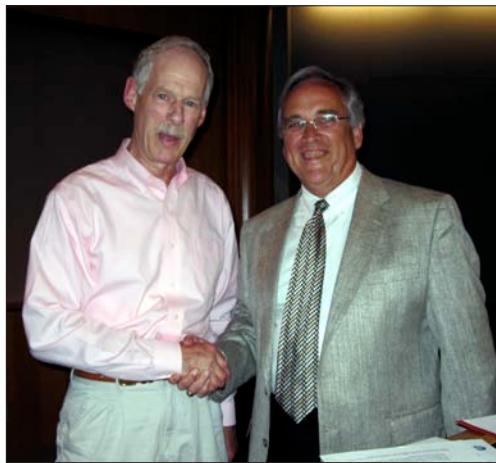
Some of Jim's most noteworthy activities are gardening, biking and walking. During his career with the Chapel Hill Police Department, Jim has walked or biked to work every day, choosing to not use motorized transportation. His gardening skills are visually and 'edibly' impressive. People often stop to ask his advice. His notoriety as a gardener has led local landscapers to ask for his input on perplexing issues.



Jim and his wife of 37 years, Tricia Huegerich (Library), have reared four children in Chapel Hill — daughters Amanda, Anneka and Jordan and son Reed. Jim enjoys gathering with his expanded family which now includes sons-in-law Jason Bostian and James Bailey, daughter-in-law Bryn Lippert, Huegerich, and grandchildren Hannah, Abigail, Lillian, Brooke and Clay.

The W. Calvin Horton Service Award was initiated in 2006 when funds were raised by the community through the Foundation for a Sustainable Community Inc., a not-for-profit charitable corporation under the auspices of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce. The community raised the funds to honor the service of former Town Manager Cal Horton. The fund supports a cash stipend associated with this award.

Earlier this year, Jim was recognized with another prestigious award, the Herman Stone Award from the Chapel Hill Police Department. The award is named for a previous police



Town Manager Roger L. Stancil (right) congratulates Jim Huegerich (left).

chief renowned for his relationship with the community. The characteristics of the award recipient are commitment to service, commitment to the values of fairness and respect for the individual, loyalty to the agency and to the community, and a demonstrated desire to serve people.

Congratulations, Jim.

Erin Kawamura photos



(left to right) 2008 W. Calvin Horton Service Award winner Larry Stroud (Public Works), former Town Manager Cal Horton, 2009 W. Calvin Horton Service Award winner Jim Huegerich and Police Chief Brian Curran

A video of the ceremony will be available at [www.youtube.com/TownOfChapelHill](http://www.youtube.com/TownOfChapelHill).