



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

May 2010
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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

We feature employees in Town Talk who demonstrate the values adopted by the Senior Management Team and recently reviewed by all Town employees. These values are Ethics, Social Equity, Professionalism, Respect, Innovation and Teamwork. The purpose of this feature is to give meaning to the words we use to talk about values. There are many others who demonstrate the values I believe we all subscribe to:

Our own **Horace Sewell El**, a bus driver with Chapel Hill Transit, featured in this Town Talk, who achieved his bachelor's degree after taking classes for ten years. We learn from him the value of learning and persistence.

Our neighbors, **Freddie and Joey Shelton**, who intervened as a man grabbed a young woman on Columbia Street and changed the outcome of what might have been a very serious encounter. They certainly demonstrate that we are all citizens of the world and we must look out for each other.

Our Cal Horton Award winners, **Larry Stroud** and **Jim Huegerich**, who demonstrate the qualities of leadership and commitment we look for in each other.

Soon we will conclude our discussion of the Town's values which started with the adoption of values by (and for) the Senior Management Team. Our discussion included a video of the senior managers talking about what the values meant to them with an opportunity for all employees to comment.

The Employee Forum has discussed the values and endorses them with an emphasis on shared understanding of the words used and accountability for using them in our every day interactions. The next step is a discussion between the Employee Forum and the Senior Management Team on how we take these values to heart and make them real in our work place. Stay tuned to see where that takes us.

Horace Sewell El

Transit Driver

Hired 1998

Chapel Hill Transit driver Horace Sewell El of Cary completed a bachelor's degree after working toward it for more than 40 years—the past 10 of them part time at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Sewell El dedicated graduation day to his mother, Annie R. Daye: "She is one of the women I wanted to honor that day for inspiring me to continue on in my education. She went back to school at age 40."

He isn't in touch with and doesn't know the name of the other person he wishes to honor. She was that little old lady at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, N.Y., whom he promised, on the day he dropped out at age 19, that someday he would finish his degree.

"If for no other reason but the fact that that she took the time and the interest to care about me, this poor kid from Queens, I promised her," he said recently. "I wish I could thank her for the spell she put on me, because here I am at UNC still trying to fulfill the promise I made to her."

When Sewell El was growing up in Queens, N.Y., in the 1960s, his neighborhood and high school were rife with drugs and prone to race riots. Then, he found demonstrations against

Value in the Spotlight

Respect

trustworthy • open • decent
defender of individual rights • civil
customer-focused • sensitive



the Vietnam war and other distractions at the community college.

"I had no job, no money and I wanted to marry my high school sweetheart," he said. "I had this hot prospect for a job ... driving a city bus paying \$10 an hour to start, with benefits, pension plan and health insurance."

So Sewell El spent 25 years as a New York City bus driver, but he went to Queens College at night and almost finished a paralegal certification. He also worked on the side for 10 years as a real estate broker. He relocated to North Carolina in 1998 and has been driving buses full time for Chapel Hill Transit for 12 years.

(continued on page 3)

COMING UP

Monday, May 31: Town Holiday. Most municipal offices will be closed.

Thursday, June 10: First Aid/CPR Training, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., TOC (Info: 969-5135)

Tuesday, June 15: Retirement Advisor, HRD Training Room (see page 2)

Tuesday, June 8: Focus Group: Diabetes in African-Americans, 6:30 p.m., Hargraves Center.

Friday, June 18: Employee Appreciation Luncheon, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Chapel Hill



Enjoy good food, games and friends at the Employee Appreciation Luncheon on June 18. See page 4 for more information.

In Brief



Vence Harris (Fire), Danita and big brother Miles welcomed a beautiful little princess into

their lives, Ms. Sydney Grace Harris. She was born April 27 at 9:53 a.m. and weighed 8 lbs and 9 oz. Both Mom and baby are doing well.



Lisa Edwards (Fire) welcomed a new grandson, Josiah, at 12:23 a.m. on April 29, weighing

in at 6 lbs. 4 oz. Grandma, new mom LaKia, and the new man of the house are all doing well.



Many happy returns to **Malcolm Hester** (Fire) and his new bride, Melinda. They were married on May 1 in an all out western wedding. YEEEE HAAA!

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

Roses in Bloom

This is the perfect time to visit the Gene Strowd Community Rose Garden on the grounds of the Chapel Hill Community Center, 120 S. Estes Drive. More than 130 different varieties of roses are now in full bloom.

The garden is available for small weddings (visit www.townofchapelhill.org/facilityrental for more information).



After 34 years of hard work and dedication, **Charles 'Toby' Booth** (Transit) has retired. He was hired as a bus driver in 1976,

and over the years was promoted to dispatcher, then supervisor. Throughout his career, he has trained hundreds of bus drivers and many dispatchers and supervisors.

Golf Tournament: Nine teams of Town employees and their talented comrades teed off at the Finley Golf Course on May 1. The winning team included **Wes Tilghman** (Parks and Recreation), Rod Dail, Mike Foley and Mike Oliver.

Questions about Retirement Savings?

Tammy Uzzell from Prudential Retirement will be available in the HRD Training Room of Town Hall on June 15 to answer questions about employees' 401(k) accounts. Appointments are required. Please contact Lynne Wade at 969-5029 or lwade@townofchapelhill.org to schedule your appointment.

Report Dumping in Storm Drains.

Call the Stormwater Pollution Hotline at 969-RAIN (7246) if you see any of the following:

- Dumping in storm drains
- Severe erosion problems
- Other activities resulting in water pollution
- Storm drain problems

No Left Turns! A pedestrian refuge island with crosswalk has been constructed on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at the Town Hall Parking Deck Entrance. Vehicles are not allowed to make left turns from the Parking Deck Entrance onto Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. All other vehicle movements will be allowed as they are now. For more information, contact Kumar Neppalli at kneppalli@townofchapelhill.org or 969-5093.

Building Maintenance Requests:

Kay McDaniel will be away from work for an extended period of time. During her absence, please email all building maintenance requests to Bob Ziemendorf, George Powell and John Newark. Bob can be reached at 969-5120; George can be reached at 969-4982 and John can be reached at 969-5132. For after hours emergencies, call 406-9078 and follow the prompts.

Don't miss an exhibit on the **history of the Chapel Hill Police Department** at the Chapel Hill Museum. Members of the Police Department worked with the museum to create "Chapel Hill Police: Guardian of the Hill" The exhibit, which includes comical letters and complaints from the mid-20th century, will be on display in the Museum's east gallery through Oct. 31.



Christian Johnson, son of **Judy Johnson** (Planning), shook hands with First Lady Michelle Obama after his team from N. C. School of Science and Mathematics won the National Science Bowl on May 3 in Washington, D.C.

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(Horace Sewell El, continued from page 1)

In 2000, he started continuing education classes at UNC to finish the paralegal certification. After achieving that, he said, "I've gone this far, on to the four-year degree."

He earned his bachelor's degree in anthropology on May 9, with his mom, children, Grand Sheik Robert Stone-El of the Federation Moorish Science Temple in Durham and friends from that congregation attending.

Coincidentally, Stone-El is the son of the late UNC professor for whom the University's Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is named. And in a North Carolina connection, Sewell El's mother is descended from Thomas Day (circa 1801- 1861), a prominent furniture maker in Milton.

Sewell El plans to keep driving the bus, but more schooling may be in his future. He'd like to earn a master's degree in public administration from the School of Government and work for the Town of Chapel Hill in another capacity.

—This story was written by Laura Toler of
UNC-Chapel Hill News Services

Recycling

If you know anyone moving out of their home in Orange County, ask them to leave their curbside recycling bins for the next occupant of the house. The bins belong to Orange County (unless the resident purchased them from the County) and should remain with the house.

Volunteers are needed to assist with recycling for Hillsborough Hog Day June 18-19 and the Eno Festival July 3-5. Contact Muriel Williman at 968-2788 or recycling@co.orange.nc.us.

Sign up to get periodic e-updates on recycling and solid waste programs. Never miss another Shred-A-Thon! Register at www.co.orange.nc.us/email/subscribeform.asp.

—Blair Pollock, Orange County Solid Waste Management

Water Your Mind—READ with Chapel Hill Public Library's second adult summer reading program. Catch a film, try a new genre, join a book discussion, learn how to build a rain garden and more. The 2010 Summer Reading Program is open to adults ages 18 and older, with programs, prizes, book discussions, and special events. The adult program will run from June 11 to Aug. 13. Registration begins June 11. For more information, call 968- 2780 or visit www.chapelhillpubliclibrary.org.

Support the Torch Run for Special Olympics

The Orange County Law Enforcement Torch Run in support of the Special Olympics will be held at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 2, at the Henry Anderson Park on NC Highway 54 West.

Participants and runners should be at the park no later than 8:45 a.m. for a pre-torch run meeting and to purchase T-shirts and hats if you do not have one. Torch Run hats and t-shirts are \$13 each.

The 7.3 mile run will begin at the Henry Anderson Park at 9 a.m. The route turns east onto the highway, continues through downtown Carrboro, West Franklin Street and East Franklin Street to U.S. Highway 15-501 North. It ends at The Outback Steakhouse across Interstate 40. There will be a shuttle bus and vans to provide transportation during and after the run back to the park. There will be water and fruits also during and after the run.

The Police Department has set a goal to raise \$50,000. during this Torch Run Campaign, which will run through Sept. 30. In 2009 the Chapel Hill Police Department placed third in the state.

Other events include a Give-Away-Raffle and



sales of Torch Run merchandise. T-shirts and hats are \$13 each. Soft coolers are \$15. To purchase any of these items, contact Phil Smith at psmith@townofchapelhill.org or 919-968-2760 ext. 134.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS

to TOWNtalk! The deadline is June 3 for the next issue. Send submissions to publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org or call 968-2743.



Landscape Architect Designs Roadside

Motorists are taking note of a new roadside median landscaping project designed by landscape architect Emily Cameron (Public Works) on U.S. Highway 15-501 at Erwin Road and Europa Drive that features almost exclusively native plants, making the eastern gateway to Chapel Hill more beautiful.

The landscape improvements represent a joint effort between the Town of Chapel Hill and NC Department of Transportation (DOT) and an investment of state funding — about \$65,000 — for beautification of the recently rebuilt intersection. The landscaping work is the final phase of the NC DOT's Superstreet project, which included the construction of an elongated roundabout-median, traffic signal modifications, and pedestrian amenities intended to reduce traffic congestion and to improve intersection efficiency and safety conditions.

The planting design features a mixture of canopy and small flowering trees, as well as evergreens trees for 'framework' and screening. Trees and grasses were selected for year-round interest as well as hardiness with minimal future maintenance.

Green Tips

Green Your Check Stub — There's a new option for employees who are paid by direct deposit. You may now have your pay stub delivered directly to your email. The electronic version will look exactly the same as the printed stub, but will come as a password-protected email attachment instead.

Printing less is more sustainable: this environmentally friendly option helps save paper and ink. The Town prints more than 20,000 direct deposit notices every year, so please help us make our payroll process "greener" while taking advantage of this new convenience! Beyond the green reasons for doing this, other benefits include: faster delivery, remote access, and less hassle.

If you're interested and you are enrolled in direct deposit, fill out the sign-up form and return it to your payroll and benefit representative or to **Kelly Stokes** in HRD. The form was included as an attachment in the April 23 Town-wide email entitled "New Payroll Option: e-notification for Direct Deposit." If you do not have a Town email account, contact your payroll and benefit representative to get a copy of the form.

—John Richardson, Sustainability Office

Appreciation for Town Employees

Employee Appreciation Luncheon

You've worked hard, and the Town wants to thank you with an Employee Appreciation Luncheon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 18, at Chapel Hill High School, 1709 High School Road.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (sorry, no to-go orders). The menu includes BBQ, fried chicken, veggie lasagna, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and brownies.

While you're there, let off some steam with basketball, get some health and wellness information or play bingo and other games, with chances to win fabulous prizes donated by local businesses.



Service Awards

Employees were recognized for service milestones at a ceremony on May 14.

Five Years

Sabrina Oliver (CaPA)
Justin Lanning (Fire)
Jaime Palacios (Fire)
Brian Parker (Fire)
Eric Taylor (Fire)
George Powell (Housing)
Len Cone (Planning)
Nathan Chambers (Police)
Anthony Nance (Public Works)
Luther Nash (Public Works)
Stephen Baines (Transit)
Marvin Mcgee (Transit)

Ten Years

Charles Powell (Fire)
Darryl Russell (Fire)
Scott Cantrell (IT)

Patsy Heath (Library)
Susan Whaley (Parks & Rec)
Channing Cabe (Police)
Reagan Kramer (Police)
Kenneth Lennon (Police)
Charles Pardo (Police)
Thomas Watkins (Public Works)
Henry Burnett (Transit)
Robert Farrell (Transit)
Sheila Neville (Transit)

15 Years

Colleen Lanigan (Parks & Rec)
James Mansfield (Parks & Rec)
Scott Falise (Police)
Tiffany Maner (Police)
Thomas Mitchell (Police)
Donald Rhoads (Police)
Dallas Taylor (Police)
Angela Turner (Public Works)
John Kiely (Transit)

20 Years

Daniel Jones (Fire)

25 Years

George Long (Housing)
Michael Whitmore (Housing)
JB Culpepper (Planning)
Kathye Williams (Police)
Charles Mitchell (Public Works)
Michael Russell (Public Works)
James Taylor (Public Works)
Geberettia Hinton (Transit)

30 Years

Elias Lack (Transit)
Annie Sharpe (Transit)

34 Years

Richard Terrell (Public Works)

35 Years

Larry Stroud (Public Works)

37 Years

Nathaniel Davis (Parks & Rec)



Pet Pix



Town employees love their pets! **Chela Tu** (Parks and Recreation) is looking for a home for foster cats Earl and Lester (right). Their owner passed away recently and they are in need of a permanent home! These brothers are full of personality and give oodles of attention. Contact ctu@townofchapelhill.org to meet them.

Miss Lyla, (right) a Spitz Pomeranian, is **Harv Howard's** (Public Works) granddog. She is wearing a Marc Jacobs, Bark Jacobs Italian cashmere sweater from Beverly Hills.

Kim Weaver (Transit) has two sweet dogs—Ladybug (top left) and Peanut (left).

Lily (bottom left) belongs to **Felix Block** (Transit) and Mary Pearse-Bloch. She was found on a mountain road in Baywood, Va. She weighed three pounds at that time.

Have a pet? Send your favorite photo to publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org, and we'll publish it in a future issue of TOWNtalk.

