



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

September 2010
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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

Welcome Back. Some of us have taken vacation over the summer. Some of us are still looking forward to a vacation at a time that suits us better. In any case, I encourage you to take time away from your job to focus on other important aspects of your life and refresh yourself. That is why we provide annual leave. The students are back, the Council starts meeting again and the pace will quicken for all of us.

Employee Health Center. We anticipated beginning this initiative Sept. 1. We are still negotiating with UNC Healthcare, and we will be delayed in our start. We will keep you updated as we move along.

On the front burner. Engaging all departments in revising the Town's Comprehensive Plan, thinking about our future from every perspective. Halloween, keeping it small and local. Dealing with the effects of the sagging economy that just cannot seem to get restarted. Developing a consistent and ongoing program of training and development for employees. Rewriting our internal policies for clarity and consistency. Continuing to think about how we operate for the future. Building the library expansion.

The Economy. Who can know what is happening? Every time there is improvement, the bottom falls out again. Housing values are dropping in Chapel Hill. We will be keeping you and the Council and the public updated regularly on what we see and hear, and how that will affect us.

Yvonne Brown

Parking Lot Attendant

Joined Town: March 1986

When Yvonne Brown moved to Chapel Hill in 1985, she asked a parking lot attendant about working there. She applied for the job and didn't get it the first time, so she applied again and was hired. Her persistence paid off, and she has been working there 24 years, longer than anyone else in the division.

Yvonne alternates between working at the Wallace Deck for two weeks and at the Rosemary/Columbia Street Lot for two weeks. She says dealing with money and people keeps her mind bright. Having a long line is good, because it gives her a workout.

Many travelers pass through Chapel Hill, so Yvonne gets to meet people from all around the world. They usually speak English well, so the language barrier is not a problem. She helps many visitors by giving them directions.

Yvonne says her favorite part of the job is when everything is going smoothly. Yvonne was born in Laurinburg in a family with eight children. She now lives in Durham and has family in the area, including her son Terrence and six grandchildren. She enjoys doing activities with her grandchildren, including going to the park and riding bikes.

Yvonne starts work at 7:30 a.m., and arrives early enough to walk for 30 to 40 minutes before work. If it's hot, she walks the steps

Value in the Spotlight

Respect

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



to the Bank of America building. She rides the TTA bus to work, so she can get to work earlier and have a less stressful commute.

Yvonne volunteers with the Durham Blues Festival and helps out older people in her Club Boulevard neighborhood in Durham with shopping, cooking, or just sitting and talking to them.

"Whatever you do, do your best."

"Yvonne is a hard worker from the old school, starting back when we worked with a punch clock and cigar box," said Parking Superintendent Brenda Jones. "She is loyal, dedicated, consistent, and I appreciate her."

COMING UP

Monday, Sept. 6: Town Holiday. Most municipal offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day

Sept. 21: Car-free Day

Thursday, Sept. 30: Deadline to submit nominations for the Cal Horton Service Award

Sunday, Oct. 3: Festifall, 1–6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 31: Homegrown Halloween



Enjoy live music, eat fabulous food and support the local art scene at Festifall on Oct. 3. For more information, visit www.townofchapelhill.org/festifall.

In Brief



Christie Brown (Library) and her husband Leith welcomed their first

child, Liam Jeffrey Voules Brown, at 2:45 p.m. Feb. 17. He weighed 8 lbs. and 11 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Aaron Seelbinder, son of **Mary Blevins** (Library), and his friend Baylor Ferrier will be one of two teams competing on Episode 8 of Food Network's reality show "24 Hour Restaurant Battle."

Aaron is a graduate of Johnson & Wales University with degrees in culinary science and business management. The show should be exciting; each team has only 24 hours to turn a bare space and a kitchen into a fully functioning restaurant. Aaron and Baylor honored their Southern roots with their restaurant idea.

Look Who's Cooking: Byron Greeson (Fire) was invited to lead a cooking class at A Southern Season. At the class on June 8, the menu consisted of babyback ribs, rosemary potatoes, grilled vegetables and apple crisp.

The audience included about 25 students, including three Town employees. Along with divulging cooking secrets, Captain Greeson took the opportunity to educate the audience on fire safety tips.

Byron says his affinity for cooking started a long time ago. He remembers being in the kitchen with his mom as a young child. He is married and has two sons. He and his wife share cooking duties based on their work schedules. Byron was invited back by A Southern Season for a second program later this year.

National Night Out

On Aug. 3, Chapel Hill police officers visited several communities as part of National Night Out. Neighbors shared hotdogs, hamburgers, ice cream, popcorn and snow cones, as well as lots of great conversation in neighborhoods including Pinegate Apartments, Booker Creek Apartments, Franklin Woods Apartments, Kingswood Apartments, Southern Village and Culbreth Park.

National Night Out aims to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anticrime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships and send a



message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Festifall: Immerse Yourself in the Arts

The Town of Chapel Hill presents Festifall from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 3. Spend an afternoon exploring quality local art and enjoying live entertainment. Festifall offers new family-friendly interactive art, with art activities and demonstrations. Other interactive activities include rock climbing and pumpkin painting for the kids.

Musical entertainment includes Cuban dance music from UNC's Charanga Carolina and The Holy Ghost Tent Revival, a Chapel Hill indie-rock favorite. Enjoy downtown's nationally acclaimed restaurants at the Taste of Chapel Hill.

For information on parking and shuttles, call 968-2829 or visit www.townofchapelhill.org/festifall



The Employee/Family Art Exhibition showcased exceptional pieces from more than 15 artists representing many Town departments. The collection included pastels, lithography, carved leather, clay and more.

The pieces that received the most votes, winning "Best Art in the Show" and "1st Place," were M.C. Russell's "Violin Case" and Eva Waddell's "King and Queen of the Barnyard" respectively. Honorable mentions went to "Rainbow" by Celia Miller, "Our Lady of Guadalupe" by Catherine Lazorko, "Basking Turtle" by Dale A. Morgan, "Sea Cookie Pins" by Jeannette Taylor and "Tower" by Chris Tomlin.

My Summer at Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department does much more than we might imagine. In addition to providing for the community's recreation, the department plans, builds, and maintains parks and recreation facilities. Operating as a business with keen customer focus, the department also manages a large organizational structure, human resources, budgeting, legal matters, and policy directions.

As an intern this summer, I learned from Parks and Recreation supervisors while assisting them on various projects. They drafted RFQs, contracts and agreements; designed, implemented and evaluated recreational programs; researched, organized and executed summer camp activities; coordinated and managed community festivals with more than 25,000 in attendance; supervised, investigated, and resolved landscaping issues; and surveyed public art. To accomplish these tasks, I observed collaboration across divisions and departments, and partnerships with organizations throughout the community.

One of the main challenges faced on a daily basis is keeping residents safe. Parks and Recreation employees are trained to be both observant and responsive. They have dealt with it all, from teenagers making mischief in the park to a chemical imbalance at an aquatic facility to a dead tree ready to fall and cause damage.

The department relies on employees to work towards its mission, vision, goals, and objectives. From my experience, Chapel Hill's Parks and Recreation employees are open-minded, superb listeners, hardworking, determined, detail-oriented, authentic, and most of all, compassionate and caring people. They are truly committed to public service. Thanks for the experience!

—Ashley Barriga, Parks and Recreation Intern



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Cal Horton Service Awards

Nominations will be accepted until Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, for the Cal Horton Service Award. Nomination forms are available on the website at www.townofchapelhill.org/towntalk, or from Loryn Clark at 968-2728 or lclark@townofchapelhill.org.

The program was established by Town Manager **Roger Stancil** and Cal Horton Service Award Program Committee members **Loryn Clark** (Planning), **Jim Huegerich** (Police), **Dan Jones** (Fire), **Andrea Judge** (Parks and Recreation), **Marcia Margotta** (Transit), **John Newark** (Public Works), **Lance Norris** (Public Works), **Deborah Squires** (Public Works), **Larry Stroud** (Public Works) and **Kathy Thompson** (Library).

The Cal 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 16 years of service of Town Manager Cal Horton.

Nominees should meet the following criteria:

- The nominee should be an employee for more than 10 years. If a group of employees is nominated the average length of time should be 10 years.
- The nominee should be recognized by peers as a positive contributor to the success of their crew, team, unit, division and department.
- The nominee should have no formal disciplinary actions against him/her in the past 10 years.
- The nominee routinely goes above and beyond job expectations in order to help others or accomplish tasks
- The nominee sets examples for others in work ethic, attendance, personal values and relationships.
- The nominee is respected by peers.

The following preferences should also be met:

- The nominee should help to bring credit to the Town and/or his or her organization with exceptional contributions to the community.
- The nominee should contribute outstanding efforts that benefited the town.
- The nominee should serve as a mentor to coworkers, especially new employees.
- The nominee should represent the ideals of service to citizens and peers in everyday demeanor and actions.

The 2009 Award was presented to **Jim Huegerich** on April 22, 2010. Jim has worked with the Chapel Hill Police Department for 35 years.

We encourage you to nominate your coworkers who you believe deserve this award. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members.

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.

Economic Climate: The recession is expected to last longer than anticipated. The State is in poor financial shape which will trickle down to towns in the next year. Some employees need clarification that the current situation is not expected to improve in the foreseeable future. Due to good planning by all departments, no one has been laid off, and benefits are still very good. Time will tell if this is sustainable.

Cell Phone Policy: A presentation was given on a proposed policy for employee cell phones. The Town would offer a stipend to employees who must use cell phones as part of their jobs, allowing them to purchase phones

and manage their own accounts. More details will follow as this plan is finalized. The Town's cell phone carrier will change to Verizon and a large cost savings is expected.

Comprehensive Plan: All departments will be involved in the process of making changes to the Town's guiding plan.

Library Expansion: Negotiations for space at University Mall are expected to result in a temporary home for the Library soon.

Chapel Hill Museum: The museum is expected to vacate the Town's building during the first half of September. Future plans for the space are not definite at this time.

Thorpe Undergraduate Internship Program: Dennis Schoch, HRD partner, will be the point person for all internships, paid or unpaid. Please do not hire interns without his knowledge. All interns present not only a resource but also a potential liability for the Town whether or not they are paid. It is extremely important that all interns be coordinated by Human Resource Development.

Green Tips

All used batteries and empty copier/printer cartridges can now be recycled at Town Hall. Batteries go in the white bin with the closed lid and copier/printer cartridges go in the larger blue bin. These bins are located on the third floor hallway atop the wooden table next to the roll carts. Orange County will collect these items when they come by to collect the other recyclables. I am working with the Sustainable Operations and Services Team to make these same opportunities available in our other facilities.

There are other recycling opportunities for cartridges. For example, companies like HP typically provide shipping labels and repackaging materials in their original boxes so that customers can send back used cartridges to be refurbished. Office supply stores like Office Depot will take back used cartridges as well.

—John Richardson, Office of Sustainability

Recycling



Orange County again has yard waste mulch for sale at the landfill after a summer hiatus. The mulch, made from locally collected yard debris, is sold by the scoop, about three cubic yards for \$22. Bring a tarp.

A backyard compost workshop will be conducted by Orange County compost expert Muriel Williman at the compost demonstration site from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Community Center, 120 S. Estes Drive in Chapel Hill. The workshop is free.

If you know anyone who is moving into a house in town or in unincorporated Orange County and there are no recycling bins at their new home, please tell them they can pick up curbside recycling bins at the Solid Waste Office at 1207 Eubanks Road from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by appointment by calling 968-2788.

Also let them know that corrugated cardboard is banned from the trash and must be recycled. You can put up to ten pieces measuring 3'x3' at the curb with recycling. Larger amounts or pieces must be taken to drop off sites.

—Blair Pollock, Orange County Solid Waste Management

Thanks to Exceptional Employees!

Richard Coane (Transit) was commended by Sheena Riddle-Jones for helping her get home during a thunderstorm. "Your employees are friendly, helpful and do a great job."

Peter Barkley (Transit) was complimented by Laurie McDonald for being kind, considerate and a safe driver. "He makes riding the F bus a pleasure."

Robert Maddry, Town of Carrboro Fire Marshal, thanked **Deborah Squires** (Public Works) for helping to resolve mapping issues. "Please let her know that her customer service is above and beyond."

Milton Fields (Transit) received a heartfelt thanks from Mary Cole for assisting her when she fell in the mud.

Dave Damin (Transit) was commended by Vicki O'Neal for his caring and concern for his passengers.

John Newark (Public Works) expressed his gratitude for assistance from **Bobby Pettiford, Joseph Ayseue and Van Bennett** (all Inspections). "While the concept of teamwork is often taken for granted . . . these individuals, and the Inspections program in general, have clearly demonstrated one of our core values."

Sal Palacios (Transit) was commended by Mirta Mihovilovic for his assistance when she boarded the wrong bus.

Anthony Elliott (Transit) was thanked by Ken Shugart for letting him use his cell phone to call his wife after he had to take a different bus route than he had planned. "I wanted to let you know that he went above and beyond to assist me, and he should be commended."

A resident of Caldwell Street called to praise the solid waste crew on route 210, consisting of **Keith Smith** at the wheel and **Danny Kirkland** and **Kenneth Marsh** at the back. "Those are two hardworking men."

Jerry Battle (Traffic Engineering) was thanked by Lewis Tisher for installing Community Watch signs in Southern Village. "We appreciate all of you."

Amy Tamburro expressed her appreciation to **Doug Clark, Annie Matthews and Carl Walker** (all Transit) for helping a young man with a disability learn bus routes "[I] want to express our gratitude for consistently outstanding customer service by these three drivers."

Compliments



Michal Jackson (Transit) was praised by Steven Lewis and Kristen Lewis for her excellent driving skills in avoiding an accident and negotiating around roadwork.

Chris Simmons thanked **Ernie Rogers, Kumar Neppalli** (Public Works) and **Sally Greene** for assistance in addressing traffic issues on Westside Drive. "Thank you so much for all of your help in making it happen."

Jim Harler (Transit) was complimented by Brian Mitchell for being pleasant and a good driver.

Jaime Palacios and Andrew Fuentes (both Fire) were commended by Mary Blevins for their work at Salud de Feria, a Latino health fair. "These guys explained the use of and gave out dozens of smoke detectors."

Quintis Becton (Transit) received thanks from Catherine Clemmer for assisting her and other passengers with disabilities. "Thanks for providing a helpful and pleasantly staffed service."

Jimmy Spero (Fire) was thanked by Linda Wagner-Martin for assisting her in installing car seats for her grandchildren. "When I left to head for Durham, I knew the little ones would be perfectly safe."

The City of Durham Fire Department expressed appreciation for assistance from the **Chapel Hill Fire Department** in extinguishing a fire at the Farrington Lakes Apartment on July 10.

Nancy Glenn commended **Ryan Warner, Keith Alston, Brian Parker, Michael Sasser** (all Fire) assisting her with an emergency. "They were the nicest, most caring group that anyone could hope for. Thank you!"

Dan Jones (Fire) was thanked by Laura Bartlett for speaking at the graduation for the Certificate in Community Preparedness and Disaster Management at UNC-Chapel Hill on July 10. "I enjoyed your presentation and the way it made me think."

Pet Pix



Deborah Squires' (Public Works) 2 year old Westie, **Addie Skye Squires** (right), runs the house most days. Addie's scarf came from Bar Harbor Maine when Deborah visited there two years ago.



Bunkie and Fifi (bottom right) reside with **Phil Mason** (Planning).

Jerry Battle's (Public Works) eight-year old poodle, **Nestle** (bottom left), loves people, but is wary of other four legged creatures.

