



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees

February 2007
Vol. 3, No. 6

www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

In my January Short Report, I talked about the Council Retreat. We designed the retreat a little differently this year to focus on strategic priorities and to build relationships between Council and management team members. We were hoping to strengthen our team and to get clearer guidance from Council on their priorities before we start focusing on money. I believe we accomplished those goals.

At the Retreat, small groups of Council Members and department heads met to share information and discuss future priorities together. This process begins to build better, shared information for decision-making and, ultimately, a better understanding of how the Council reaches its decisions. My goal is for this shared understanding to result in shared commitment to the final priorities and lead to a stronger team of elected officials and professional management.

The broad categories of priorities include enhanced staff training and development, improvements to the Town's technology capabilities, planning ahead for Carolina North, continued focus on land use and zoning as a way to preserve the Town's character, implementation of carbon reduction strategies and planning for the aging of Town facilities.

The next step in this process is for staff to prepare additional information about priority items. We can then continue this collaborative process of making decisions about how the Town allocates scarce public resources to achieve its priorities through the budget. Council and staff will then work together to clarify expectations based on resources available with the goal of establishing achievable expectations for the coming year.

This is a learning process. We will evaluate our work this year and adjust based on what we learn about how to do it better. Our mutual interest is to better serve our community.

Debbie Timmons

Police Officer

Joined Town: Feb. 2, 2004

Duties: While the majority of her time is spent on traffic enforcement and crash investigations, Debbie also serves as one of the physical training instructors at the Police Department. She works out all the rookies with weight lifting, calisthenics, running and more. The next cadet school will start later this month, and the new recruits will need to get in shape to pass a rigorous Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT). Debbie invites other employees who would like a strenuous workout to join them at 7 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays (call 968-2760).

Personal: At the Outer Banks Marathon in Nags Head, N.C., last November, Debbie came across the finish line (pictured at right) in a personal record time of 3 hours and 50 minutes (3:50), which also qualified her for entry into the prestigious Boston Marathon. It was her fourth marathon and part of an exercise program for life. "Running is good for health and managing stress. It's the best natural anti-depressant there is."

She was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in southern Alamance County. Debbie received her magna cum laude (with honors) degree in exercise and sports science from UNC Greensboro. Her first career was as a research technician at the UNC Departments of Anesthesiology and Neuropharmacology. Her second career in law enforcement has landed her positions in Raleigh and Burlington, but she has found her home here

In the Spotlight



New year's resolutions often include lofty fitness goals. Debbie Timmons encourages employees to adopt "fitness for life."

where "the people are the very best."

Her late father was a retired police officer from the D.C. area and her mother is employed at the UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School. Debbie has two cats named Sassy and Scorch and a greyhound named Katie.

Quote: "Go hard or go home."

COMING UP

Feb. 2: Black History Month Exhibit opens at Town Hall. A reception is set for 5:30-7:30 p.m. with performances by choral groups at 6 p.m.

Feb. 4: The Library presents a free concert by the Carolina Chocolate Drops at 2 p.m.

Feb. 19: President's Day (not a Town holiday)

March 2: Chili Cook-Off and Talent Show, 12:30 p.m., Hargraves Community Center

March 2-4: Library Book Sale



The history of Chapel Hill's black community is documented by an exhibit at Town Hall. Pictured here is the Lincoln High School Class of 1952.

In Brief

The Public Works Department with great sadness announces the passing of **Jerry Council** on Jan. 8. A Celebration of Life service was held Jan. 12 at Holland Chapel AME Zion Church in Apex. Thanks to all for your calls and concerns about Jerry during his illness.

Rob Farrell (Engineering) was promoted to Town Signs and Markings Technician II upon completion of training and certification from the International Municipal Signals Association (IMSA) for Signs and Markings Technician Level I and Level II.

Ray Gornto (Engineering), Town Traffic Signal Technician I, has completed a series of courses offered by the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) necessary for certification as a Roads Scholar. These courses included Work Zone Safety, Flagger Training, Snow and Ice Removal, Soils Fundamentals, and Maintenance and Repair of Utility Cuts.

Jerry Neville (Engineering), Town Signs and Markings Technician I, has completed training from the International Municipal Signals Association (IMSA) for Signs and Markings Technician I and is awaiting formal certification.

Mike Rempson (Engineering), Town Traffic Signal Technician III, has completed training and received certification from the International Municipal Signals Association (IMSA) for Traffic Signal Field Technician Level II and Traffic Signal Inspections.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS to *TOWNtalk!* The next deadline is Feb. 19 for the March issue.



TOWNtalk is produced by the Town Information Office with assistance from the Human Resources Department and Clerk's Office. Editorial/Graphics: Catherine Lazorko, Melanie Miller Copying: Tanita Howard

Tax Time

Employees should have received their W-2 forms on Jan. 26. If you have not received yours or have questions, please call Rhonda Sommer in Finance at 969-5021.

Free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers from UNC-Chapel Hill will be offered at Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberson St., from Feb. 6 through April 12. Those interested should bring copies of all W-2 and 1089 forms and the amount of other income received by themselves and their spouses, as well as a valid picture I.D. and other special case tax information. Sessions are offered from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To set up an appointment, call 1-800-807-6349.

The Ebone Dancers, including Ashley Weaver-Purefoy (below), performed at the Martin Luther King Day celebration held by the Public Works Department. The featured speaker was Minister Michelle Laws, with music performed by the Public Works Ensemble.



Affordable Housing

The Orange Community Housing and Land Trust is offering classes for first-time homebuyers and land trust orientation sessions. The Land Trust will hold an Open House at 1753 Legion Road from 1 to 3 p.m. on Feb. 3. Information: 967-7545.

TOWNtalk, a publication for and about Town of Chapel Hill employees, is issued monthly September through June. It is copied in the Town Clerk's Office on recycled paper. Please recycle with white paper.



Melanie Miller photo

Town Manager Roger L. Stancil takes a turn on a Segway, which is being tested by the Police Department for use in downtown. The electric scooters cost about \$5,000 and are on loan from the state Department of Crime and Control and Public Safety.

New Cook-Off Date

The Chili Cook-Off and Talent Show Employee Appreciation Event has been moved to 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 2 at the Hargraves Community Center. Vote for your favorite chili: Best Beef, Best Vegetarian and Best Overall. Door prizes will be awarded by drawing and for answering Town trivia questions. A free chili lunch will be provided by Scurlock's Catering. The Talent Show will begin around 1 p.m. For information, call Johnny Pompey at 968-2787 ext. 211 or email jpompey@townofchapelhill.org.

Recycling

All single family residences within Chapel Hill limits have received their new bins for mixed paper and by the end of February another 11,000 orange bins will be distributed to rural households with curbside recycling. The general rule: put all clean, dry paper in one bin and all cans and bottles in the other.

Some people prefer to use only one bin. If you use one bin, put your mixed paper in a paper bag. If you want to keep the bag for multiple uses, write on it with an indelible marker, "Please leave bag for reuse," and the recycling collector will try to do so, though if it's wet or torn, it may be recycled. You can also stack all the mixed paper underneath or inside the newspapers so it doesn't blow around. Make sure that shredded paper is in a closed paper bag.

— Blair Pollock (Orange Community Recycling)

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Compliments



Doug Clark (Transportation) was thanked by Harriet Gilliard for his concern for passenger safety.

Aprel Dumas (Transportation) was commended by Katherine McKernan for having a positive attitude on a crowded bus. "She was very polite, sweet, and enthusiastic... Please let her know that I appreciate what she does!"

Eric Olson expressed his appreciation for Chapel Hill's transit service and bus drivers **Carl Hicks** and **Deborah Y. Davis**. "The Chapel Hill bus service has made getting to work a pleasant experience. . . . I wish every city had such a great transit authority. . . . in my view it is money well spent."

Larry Jones (Transportation) was complimented by Vikkie Cameron for his care and concern. She wanted to express her appreciation to Larry for being kind and gentlemanly as he waited for her at Social Services.

EZ Rider passenger Vickie ONeal expressed her gratitude to driver **Ronald Watson** for being pleasant and cordial.

Telephone Tip

Some Town Hall voicemail users have had difficulty forwarding voicemail messages. This occurs when the destination voicemail box does not have a "recorded name" in place. This is a setting that must be done by each of us individually when initializing the voicemail box (some of us skipped this step).

Please verify that your name is recorded. To record your name, access your voicemail and navigate through option-4 (Setup Options), option-3 (Personal Settings), and option-2 (Recorded Name). If you can hear your own name, then you are done; if not, please record your name.

— Arkadiusz (Arek) Kempinski (IT)



Catherine Lazorko photo

Aquatic Center Groundbreaking — Breaking ground for the new facility in Homestead Park are (left to right) former Town Council member Flicka Bateman, Mayor pro tem Bill Strom, Town Council Member Laurin Easthom, Mayor Kevin Foy, Orange County Commission Chair Moses Carey Jr., and Town Council Member Jim Ward. Construction of the \$5.5 million project, which will feature two pools, is scheduled to begin in February.

Safety Sense

The Town Hall Safety Committee has been working on safety compliance issues, including:

- Updating first aid and bloodborne pathogens kits in departments and town vehicles.
- Updating Hazard Communication Program for Town Hall, including MSDS inventory and hazard assessments. They are currently using the new online Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) program that has been implemented townwide.
- Currently working on revising Town Hall's emergency evacuation program, and will be conducting monthly safety inspections.
- Completing online safety training in back safety, bloodborne pathogens, confined space, defensive driving, electrical safety, ergonomics, fire safety, hazard communication, ladder safety, lift truck safety, lockout/Tagout, personal protective equipment, and preventing slips, trips and falls.

We appreciate the committee's hard work and dedication to our safety program.

— Julie Waller (Human Resources)



Melanie Miller photo

The Town Hall Safety Committee: (left to right) Scott Newton (chair), Scott Beavers, Cathy Andrews, Tanita Howard, Scott Cantrell, Julie Waller and Maggie Bowers.

Employee Forum



The Employee Forum is providing orientation to its new members and setting new goals for the future year. One of our goals is to help improve interdepartmental communication. Look to your representative for information on our activities. We are also interested in finding out what ideas and concerns you have that we might be able to help address.

At our January meeting, we had a conversation on random drug testing. During this discussion, we realized that many departments are not aware that the Town has a random drug testing policy nor do they know the process. Human Resources will again this spring continue to offer substance abuse training to make employees aware.

For more information, contact Julie Waller in the Human Resources Department at 969-5035 or jwaller@townofchapelhill.org.

Employee Milestones

Service Awards

It was brought to our attention that we missed an announcement of Service Awards! For this reason, we are publishing a complete list from May to August 2006. Please make a note that the next Service Award Ceremony is set for Friday, May 4 at Town Hall. Is this a milestone year for you?

Five Years

Jose Alvarez (Fire)
Gerald Boone (Fire)
Maggie Bowers (Inspections)
Larry Cates (Transportation)
Curtis Cecil (Transportation)
David Cheek (Fire)
Joe Corbett (Transportation)
David Funk (Police)
Keith Gaudette (Fire)
Andre Gipson (Police)
Jason Grafford (Fire)
Anissa Graham-Davis (Human Resources)
John Joseph (Fire)
Clayton London (Fire)
Richard Roberts (Transportation)
Tony Roof (Fire)
Thomas Smith (Public Works)

Ten Years

Rosemary Aiken (Police)
Jaja Amani (Transportation)
Bob Avery (Information Technology)
Janice Dareff (Library)
Kurt Gurley (Police)
Deborah Squires (Engineering)

Fifteen Years

Keith Alston (Fire)
Dace Bergen (Fire)
Charles Bynum (Transportation)
Jeff Clark (Police)
Rebecca Fisseha (Library)
Robert Mallory (Police)
James Orbich (Police)
Basel Sellars (Public Works)

Twenty Years

Jerry Battle (Engineering)
William Evans (Transportation)
Stacy Hagerty (Library)
Annie Matthews (Transportation)

Twenty-Five Years

Ronald Teague (Transportation)
Larry Tucker (Engineering)

Thirty-One Years

Jim Huegerich (Police)

New Employees

October to January 2007

Gary Beneville (Police) Police Officer
Richard Coane (Transportation) Transit Operator
Laura Dominguez (Library) Library Assistant
Christopher Farrell (Fire) Firefighter
Barbara Gear (Transportation) Transit Operator
Jeremy Hall (Transportation) Transit Operator
Donald Hayes (Public Works) Groundskeeper
Jonathan Hiam (Library) Materials Processor
Jon Hill (Library) Library Assistant
Ricky Hunter (Transportation) Transit Operator II
Geraldine Ingram (Finance) Payroll Supervisor
Michal Jackson (Transportation) Transit Operator
Yi-Ching Jen (Finance) Accounting Clerk – PT
Harry Latowsky (Engineering) Engineer
Tracey Little (Transportation) Transit Operator
Barry Lowry (Fleet Supervisor) Engineer
Robert Myers (Engineering) Engineer
Clifford Odums (Transportation) Transit Operator II – PT
Bryan Pendleton (Fire) Firefighter
Timothy Peterson (Transportation) Service Attendant
Natasha Powell (Transportation) Transit Operator
Luis Rodrigues (Fire) Firefighter
Richard Shreve (Finance) Administrative Analyst

Dawn Smith (Transportation) Transit Operator
Ronald Schwarm (Transportation) Transit Operator
Fred Sparrow (Transportation) Service Attendant
Ronald Stinnett (Transportation) Transit Operator
Andrew Summers (Public Works) Solid Waste Collector
LaShunda Taylor (Human Resources) Secretary/Receptionist
Darrel Town (Public Works) Solid Waste Collector
Lionel Utley (Transportation) Transit Operator



Catherine Lazorko photo

Retirees

Beverly Fearington (Transportation)
 Effective September 1, 2006
Stacy Hagerty (Library)
 Effective Nov. 1, 2006
Darrah Degnan (Library)
 Effective Dec. 1, 2006
Clarence McAdams (Transportation)
 Effective Dec. 1, 2006