



In the Spotlight

Highlighting Exceptional Employees

Phil Smith Court Liaison Officer

Phil Smith is the Chapel Hill Police Department's Court Liaison Officer as well as the Off-Duty and Special Events Coordinator. He's been with the department since 1992 when he started as a patrol officer.

"Teamwork is the most important Town value to me," Phil says. "I work with many of the Town departments, the Downtown Partnership, UNC and other outside agencies to plan for events, and without teamwork it wouldn't be possible."

Phil is finalizing the plans for Homegrown Halloween, which he says he starts planning for in August.

"We begin by meeting with community partners, then hold internal meetings and follow that with meetings with outside agencies," Phil says. "This year we have 14 partners helping us prepare for the event."

This Halloween presents a special twist that comes around every five years or so—Halloween falls on Saturday.

"We usually get around 300 officers from multiple agencies throughout the Triangle to cover the event," Phil says.

Phil says he's confident that with the plan that's in place, the event can be managed properly. He credits the joint effort by the community and the strong media campaign. And, he says they still learn something new every year.

"Keeping people and property as safe as possible is our top priority," Phil says.

Phil lives in Hillsborough with his wife, Diana, and three kids. In his spare time, he says he enjoys spending time with his family, reading and being outdoors.

In 2012, Phil was awarded the Herman Stone award, which recognizes a Chapel Hill Police officer for his or her relationship with the community. It's named for Chief Herman Stone, who served as Chief of the Chapel Hill Police Department from 1977–1987. Phil has been the CHPD's coordinator for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics since 1995.

—Story by Ran Northam

Value in the Spotlight Teamwork



Ran Northam photo

RESPECT Values

Responsibility

Equity

Safety

Professionalism

Ethics

Communication

Teamwork

