

News Briefs

Dog rescued from pipe

Carrboro Police, Carrboro Fire-Rescue and Chapel Hill Fire Department officials rescued a dog trapped in a storm water drain pipe near Lake Hogan Farms on Friday.

The Carrboro Police Department's animal control officer was alerted to a dog trapped in the pipe Friday morning after the dog's owner was unable to coax it out. Police requested the assistance of Carrboro Fire-Rescue after the animal control officer ran out of options, and officials decided to dig down to the dog, about 10 feet.

The Chapel Hill Fire Department was then requested for their expertise in urban search and rescue and to use their land search infrared camera. In addition, the nearest backhoe, owned by J.V. Brockwell Trucking Company at Calvander, was called to the scene.

After several minutes of the backhoe banging the pipe and people calling from the opposite end of the pipe, the dog appeared and was able to be lifted to safety.

The dog did not seem to suffer any ill effects.

Tax review board needs applicants

The Board of County Commissioners seeks applicants for the Orange County Board of Equalization and Review.

The Board of Equalization and Review examines and reviews tax lists of the county for the current year with the intent that all taxable property shall be listed on the abstracts and tax records of Orange County and appraised according to the standards required by the General Statutes of North Carolina.

The board will meet up to three days per week, for approximately three to four hours at a time, for up to three consecutive months, starting in April. Members will be paid for all meetings attended.

All interested county citizens are encouraged to apply. For more information or to fill out an application, visit [www.co.orange.nc.us](http://www.co.orange.nc.us) or contact the clerk to the board at 245-2145 or [athompson-rockett@co.orange.nc.us](mailto:athompson-rockett@co.orange.nc.us).

Carolina North public hearing held

At press time on Wednesday, the Chapel Hill Town Council held a public hearing at which UNC-Chapel Hill staff presented a Carolina North Master Use Plan to Mayor Kevin Foy, council members and Chapel Hill residents. Also on the agenda for the 7 p.m. public hearing: a presentation about the Concept Plan for the Innovation Center at Carolina North, a public hearing regarding Millennium Commercial Properties, LLC and Orange County Habitat for Humanity's request for approval of the 63-lot Bradley Ridge Preliminary Plat Cluster Subdivision and a public hearing regarding a request for approval of a preliminary plat for the Estates at Oxford subdivision, a 4-lot subdivision near Smith Level Road and Dogwood Acres.

For more information about the Jan. 23 public hearing and other meetings, visit [www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org). The Chapel Hill Town Council's next business meeting will be held at the Chapel Hill Town Hall at 7 p.m. on Jan. 28.


New Chatham park

At its meeting on January 22, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved two major grant applications and an initial concept design plan to begin development of the new Northeast District Park on Big Woods Road.

Chatham County operates ballfields in Bynum and recently completed the major phase of Southwest Park in Bear Creek, but other parks have not yet been developed. Last fall, the Board of Commissioners purchased nearly 67 acres on Big Woods Road for the Northeast District Park. Recreation fees paid by developers when land is subdivided paid for the purchase of the land.

The first phase of Northeast District Park is expected to include a baseball field, multi-purpose field, walking trail, natural areas and a playground. It also will include a building with concession stand, restrooms and covered eating area.

Water Report - January 23, 2008	
LAKE LEVELS	
University Lake	6 feet, 5 in. below full
Cane Creek	15 ft., 1.5 in. below full
Total Availability Supply	40.9% of capacity
PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH	
Jones Ferry Rd. Treatment Plant	1.15 in.
Cane Creek Reservoir	1.24 in.
Normal rainfall for Jan.	4.24"
CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND	
7-Day Average	7.405 million gallons
30-Day Average	6.835 million gallons
Estimated days of water remaining	212 (based on average demand, assuming no further rainfall.
Source: OWASA	



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Fight has high school looking for answers

By Susan Dickson  
Staff Writer

Students and teachers were left saddened and bewildered after racially-charged comments led to a fight among three students at Carrboro High School last Thursday.

According to Principal Jeff Thomas, the fight broke out after a white student made racially charged comments to a black student. After faculty members broke up the fight, one of the students had to be taken to the hospital for injuries and was released later that evening.

According to a police report, the fight involved three offenders, including a 16-year-old black student, a 17-year old white student and a 15-year old black student. According to the report,

two of the students fought while the third student struck one of the other students repeatedly.

The students have not yet been charged, according to Carrboro Police Captain J.G. Booker. Possible charges include assault as well as ethnic intimidation.

"We certainly don't sanction any hatred language, any ethnic intimidation, and we certainly don't sanction violence in response to that language," Thomas said.

"[The fight] has given people in the community the perception that we have a race relation issue," he added. "I would say, yes we do. I don't know any high schools that don't have race relation issues."

According to Thomas, the incident may have been related to a previous incident in Decem-

ber, in which the white student involved in the fight used a racial slur toward a black student, who was not involved in Thursday's fight.

The school then enlisted the help of the Dispute Settlement Center to resolve the issues between the black student and the white student.

"There is a large group of African-American students who are pretty angry with this student," Thomas said. "That in large part is what really motivated the fight last week."

Thomas said many of the students at the school don't understand why the fight happened.

"I think there's a feeling of sadness [among the students]," Thomas said. "A group came to me after school Thursday wanting to talk.

"Their statements to me were, 'We don't understand ... Why is this happening in our school? We're all friends.'"

Thomas said the school has brought in additional security and counselors since the fight. In addition, the school is forming a committee of students, staff and parents to create a plan to deal with race issues at the school.

Disciplinary action against the students is pending, Thomas said.

"Racial conflict is obviously not something that's occurred overnight, and it's not going to go away overnight," Thomas said. "We have an opportunity here to make a tremendous difference in our students' race relations."

"These issues are at all high schools, and they probably don't get talked about enough."

County board reviews transfer site complaint

Rogers Road complaint to EPA alleges discrimination

By Susan Dickson  
Staff Writer

Orange County and the Board of County Commissioners are reviewing an administrative complaint against the county and others filed with the Environmental Protection Agency last summer.

According to a letter from the EPA to the county dated January 8, the agency received an administrative complaint in October "alleging that the Orange County, North Carolina Board of County Commissioners has violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ... and EPA's nondiscrimination regulations."

The complaint, filed by Rev. Robert Campbell on behalf of members of the Rogers Road community, states that the agencies and municipalities listed in the complaint "have a record of historical and ongoing discrimination" against the Rogers Road community.

According to the complaint, the earliest discrimination occurred in 1972, the year the county landfill was established on Eubanks Road, with the most recent discrimination ongoing.

The commissioners voted in November to reopen the search for a waste transfer station site, citing social justice reasons and outcry from the community. Commissioners had voted in March to locate the transfer station on Eubanks Road, near the site of the county's 35-year-old landfill, which is expected to reach capacity in 2011.

The complaint states that the "residents of the predominantly African-American and low-income ... communities have made repeated requests and petitions before" to the towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough, as well as the county, "to seek solutions to ... the disproportionate and adverse impact of the siting and operation of the Orange County, NC landfill on the complainants," and the "disproportionate and adverse impact of the current plans to approve a permit for and siting of a regional solid waste transfer station on the complainants without the meaningful public participation, input or compensation of the complainants," and the "[c]omplainants concerns about the public health risks and health related quality of life effects."

The complaint also cites pos-

sible groundwater contamination, a lack of basic amenities in the complainants' communities and the siting of the transfer station.

Board Chair Barry Jacobs said the board had referred the complaint to the county attorney, and would not comment on the matter.

County attorney Geoff Gledhill could not be reached for comment.

The complaint lists several agencies, departments and municipalities that committed the discrimination, including: Orange County, the Board of County Commissioners, Orange County Solid Waste Management, Orange County Environmental Health Services, the Town

of Chapel Hill, the Town of Carrboro, the Town of Hillsborough, Orange Water and Sewer Authority, the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, the North Carolina Division of Waste Management and the North Carolina Division of Water Quality.

The county has now officially started the new search and has contracted with a private firm to do so. Members of the Rogers Road community have asked the board to officially remove the Eubanks Road site from consideration, but the county has not yet taken such an action.

Mayor Mark Chilton said the town of Carrboro had not yet reviewed the complaint and would not comment on it.



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