

Briefs

UDO hearing continued

The public hearing on the Unified Development Ordinance has been continued until Monday to allow for additional public comments. The hearing begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Department of Social Services, Hillsborough Commons, 113 Mayo St. in Hillsborough.

For questions or additional information, contact the Orange County Planning and Inspections Department at 245-2575. Additional information is available on the department's website at www.co.orange.nc.us/planning

Town accepts bid on Weaver Street

The Town of Carrboro sent out notices to business owners that work is scheduled to begin March 7 on extensive repairs to the Weaver Street roadbed.

The town awarded the bid to Hannah Utilities of Durham, who beat out five other companies with an offer of \$1,005,700 for the work, which is expected to take about one year to complete.

Prior to the start of construction, the town will set up message boards and flashers cautioning motorists to seek alternative routes. Plans call for the work to be done in phases starting at the lowest point on street, which is near the intersection of Weaver and Main streets near Carr Mill Mall's main parking lot.

More information is available on the town's website at townofcarrboro.org/WS

OWASA changes disinfection

OWASA customers may notice a chlorine taste and odor in their water this March and early April. The change comes in light of the agency's annual change in its disinfection process.

OWASA crews will be releasing water from local fire hydrants in March in order to flush the water mains clean, and encourage customers who notice discoloration or air bubbles in their water to run cold water through their faucet for five minutes to clear up the water.

For more information, contact Rachel Monschein at rmonschien@owasa.org

Affordable-housing discussion

The Town of Chapel Hill planning staff will begin a series of public-input meetings in March on affordable housing in Chapel Hill.

The council has set a 2011 goal to develop a strategy to gain a better understanding of the affordable-housing system in Chapel Hill by gaining citizen input and that of economy-housing experts.

For more information or to be placed on the mailing list of the input meetings, please contact Rae Buckley at rbuckley@townof-chapelhill.org

Energy efficiency fair

The towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro will host an Energy Efficiency Education Fair on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carrboro Century Center. The fair, which is open to all local residents and businesses, will feature experts on a variety of issues relating to energy efficiency.

For more information, contact Nora Barger at nbarger@cleanenergysol.com

Council to discuss food trucks

The Chapel Hill Town Council will hold a public forum on the issue of food trucks in Chapel Hill on Monday at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

After receiving a citizen's petition to consider permitting and regulating food trucks in the area, the council invites the community's input to determine whether or not food trucks should be allowed to operate on private property in town and under what restrictions.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, send your ideas and comments to Kendal Brown, Town of Chapel Hill planner, at kbrown@townofchapelhill.org



Board approves new options for 300 East Main

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — At its meeting Tuesday night at Town Hall, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen cleared the way for additions to the former VisArt Video space at 300 East Main St., opening the door for a possible expansion and move of Cat's Cradle along with other changes at the property.

The board approved a change to the center's existing conditional-use permit to allow owners Main Street Partners to expand the front of the current Cradle and the former VisArt space out to the edge of the existing canopy and construct additional space at the back of the property. VisArt closed its doors last month.

Laura Van Sant of Main Street Partners said the expansion and move is one of several options under consideration as owners prepare for a much larger expansion on the site.

"With VisArt empty, it gave us some options," she said. "Right now, there are no firm plans for the Cradle move or anything happening at the building."

Although the VisArt space is slightly smaller than the existing Cradle, the expansion approved Tuesday night would raise the floor space from 6,400 square feet to 8,800 square feet. In approving the plan, the town waived town parking rules that would have required five more spaces at the site.

Van Sant said Main Street Partners went ahead with the

request so that it could move quickly once any decision is made.

"We wanted to make sure we had all the boxes checked," Van Sant said. "But even for this space, nothing is finalized."

She said there is also hope that the major development planned at the site could start moving forward soon. The proposal, including a hotel and parking deck located on the easternmost portion of the site, have been stalled since credit markets tightened following the town's approval of the development in 2008.

"There seems to be a thaw in credit," Van Sant said, adding that Main Street Partners could have an announcement about the project coming within the next month.

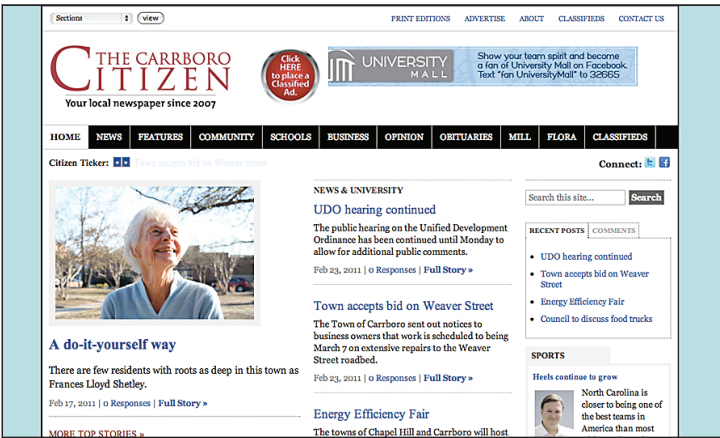
Citizen wins press awards

The Carrboro Citizen has won another set of awards from the North Carolina Press Association for its website, writing and editorials.

At a ceremony last week during the press association's Winter Institute, Citizen publisher Robert Dickson accepted four awards on behalf of the newspaper.

For the second year in a row, The Citizen's website, carrborocitizen.com, was named best in the state for newspapers with a circulation of 3,500 to 10,000. The site was redesigned last year by Michelle Langston, who worked with Citizen staffers Kirk Ross, Mike Li and intern Lucy Butcher to develop a new template for small newspapers using the WordPress open-source platform as part of her graduate work at UNC's School of Information and Library Science.

In writing awards, managing editor Taylor Sisk won second place in feature writing for a



remembrance of civil rights attorney and UNC law professor Dan Pollitt, titled "A lifetime of civility."

Sisk, Ross and Citizen art director Liz Holm won second place for the design and content of the newspaper's editorial page.

Ross won third place for editorial writing based on entries about the need to protect vulnerable citizens from the impact of budget cuts and the challenges facing the graduat-

ing class of 2010 and an editorial in opposition to siting a waste transfer station on Millhouse Road.

"I'm so pleased that our staff has been recognized for the excellent in-depth journalism we provide for our community, for the really outstanding work that's been done on our website and for our design in general — both in print and online," Dickson said. "All of these folks are richly deserving of these awards." — Staff Reports



Dan Ryon
Financial Advisor
205 West Main Street, Suite 101
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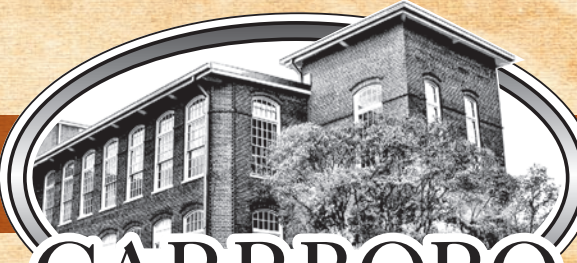
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New roots

Mindy Douglas Adams, pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, at the church's groundbreaking last Saturday. The church, which in 2005 branched from University Presbyterian of Chapel Hill and the Salem Presbytery, seeks new roots in the building that will be erected on this lovely spot near the water tower north of the Briar Chapel development in northern Chatham County. More than 100 members of the church and community attended the event.

PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ



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