

News Briefs

Vote for the Farmers’ Market

According to market manager Sarah Blacklin, the Carrboro Farmers’ Market is only 59 votes away from being number one in the nationwide Love Your Farmers Market Contest sponsored by Local Harvest, a national local-food database that connects farms, food-related businesses and resources throughout the country.

As of Tuesday, the market was number three in the country with 1,009 votes. Durham ranks number one with 1,068 votes.

The winner of the Love Your Farmers Market contest gets a reward of \$5,000. Blacklin says the money could help the market with new projects or possibly be used to help purchase an EBT (food stamp) machine.

Last week, farmers handed out bright-neon slips asking customers to “Vote for Carrboro!” as they exchanged money and produce.

To vote, go to the Carrboro Farmers’ Market website at [carrborofarmersmarket.com](http://carrborofarmersmarket.com) and fill out the voting form on the homepage.

Market hours shortened for 4th

The Carrboro Farmers’ Market will shorten operating hours Saturday and move to the front of Town Hall on West Main Street in order to allow for preparations for the town’s Fourth of July celebration at the Town Commons.

The markets’ hours will run from 7-10 a.m.

Courtesy tickets

To encourage folks worried about parking to venture downtown, Chapel Hill has implemented a Courtesy Ticket program. Under the program, once per calendar year, if you receive a citation for a parking meter violation your citation will be dismissed.

The town’s Parking Services Division began issuing Courtesy Tickets on July 1.

Town launches new site

The Town of Chapel Hill announced this week the launch of its new website at [townofchapelhill.org](http://townofchapelhill.org).

The website allows citizens access to calendars, council agendas and videos, email directories, news releases, job postings and service information.

There are also links to services and departments, links to recreation programs and activities, listings of upcoming meetings and special events, email news subscription services, content that conforms to ADA accessibility guidelines, forms for requesting services and access to town social networking services such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube

The town will continue to offer online payment options, including bills for recreation programs.

The website was revamped with help from Vision Internet, a California-based company that specializes in municipal websites. Staff from the town’s Communications and Public Affairs Department organized community meetings to receive input from local residents on how the town could best change the site for improvement.

Web visitors are urged to contact the town to offer feedback or report technical errors. Visit [townofchapelhill.org](http://townofchapelhill.org) or contact the Communications and Public Affairs Department at 968-2743 or [publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org)



Chapel Hill received a first-place 2009 City Livability Award and the Climate Protection Award, which were presented at a ceremony held at Chapel Hill Transit in recognition of the bus system’s major role in the city earning the awards. Pictured are Augustus Cho, left, chairman of the Chapel Hill Transportation Board, along with Director of Transit Steve Spade and Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy.

DOWNTOWN LIFE IN CHAPEL HILL AND CARRBORO



Lights dim, curtain draws closed

After a couple of weeks holding us in suspense, Franklin Street institution the Varsity Theater finally closed its doors. Owner Bruce Stone said the theater has struggled financially.

“This is a business decision, a

bottom-line decision. The numbers currently don’t support the continuation of both theaters as viable enterprises,” said Stone, who also owns the Chelsea Theater in Timberlyne. “The Varsity especially has been struggling for over two years, with no prospect of an upturn any time soon.”

Stone said that many of the Varsity’s struggles are tied to traffic and parking concerns in the Franklin Street area.

“We have been in the Varsity for nine challenging but enjoyable years,” he said. “Our landlord has been understanding and supportive throughout our tenure. We of course regret this development but recognize that this change is entirely necessary.”

Stone plans to continue operating the Chelsea.

**More patio please**

If you’ve strayed near the corner of Rosemary Street and Pritchard Avenue of late on a weekend night, you may have noticed that the patio at La Residence is considerably more lively than it was when the place was known more for its fine-dining experience inside.

La Rez owners are clearly enjoying the success and have set about making improvements.

**Sculpture watch**

Not sure just when the “temporary” wood sculpture next to Spanky’s will hit the woodpile, but since we wrote about it a couple of weeks ago, more reviews have poured in. We imagine the town is hearing the same things we are, which boil down to (and we’re putting this politely) “nice try.”

**Bloggy stuff**

A reminder that Big City is also one of The Citizen’s newest blogs. Visit [www.carrborocitizen.com/BigCity](http://www.carrborocitizen.com/BigCity) if you’re interested or bored or something like that. There’s a lovely post up with a short video of a Norfolk Southern engine lumbering through town. Kids seem to dig it.

ELECTION FROM PAGE 1

In Chapel Hill, Kevin Foy’s decision not to seek another term has touched off at least a three-way race for mayor between transportation board chair Augustus Cho and town council members Matt Czajkowski and Mark Kleinschmidt.

In the race for three seats on the Chapel Hill Town Council, Penny Rich has announced and council member Ed Harrison has indicated he is likely to do so, as well. Council member Jim Merritt, who was named to replace the late Bill Thorpe, has yet to announce his intention.

In Hillsborough, Mayor Tom Stevens has announced he will seek reelection. Seats up this year on the town board are held by Frances Dancy and Michael Gering.

In Pittsboro, the terms of Mayor Randy Voller and town commissioners Pamela Baldwin and Christopher Walker expire this year.

The Orange County Board of Elections website will keep track of candidates as they file at [co.orange.nc.us/elect/2009CandidateFilings.asp](http://co.orange.nc.us/elect/2009CandidateFilings.asp)



John Gualtieri hammers together a frame for lattice to be installed along the edges of the patio at La Residence restaurant on Rosemary Street in Chapel Hill. Restaurant employees were spending a hot Monday afternoon on the improvement project. In the background, handling the lattice, is Paul Dailey.

**THE CARRBORO CITIZEN**

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