

ELECTIONS

Judicial race now a three-way contest

By **Kirk Ross**
Staff Writer

In an otherwise quiet week of candidate filings, the race for an open judicial seat for Orange and Chatham counties expanded to three names.

Assistant District Attorney Lamar F. Proctor Jr. of Effland added his name to those seeking to succeed District Court Judge Patricia Devine, who has indicated she will not seek another term. Already signed on for the Democratic primary are Page Vernon, a Chatham County lawyer and former assistant district attorney,

and Chapel Hill attorney Glenn Gerding. The judicial seat is one of three on ballot this year in District 15B, which covers Orange and Chatham counties. Incumbent judges Beverly Scarlett and Chuck Anderson, who have filed for re-election, have not drawn a primary challenger.

In other races, Tony McKnight of Hillsborough has filed to run for the Orange County Schools Board of Education which has three seats up in the May 6 election. McKnight joins former Orange County commissioner Steve Halkiotis of Hillsborough, who filed last week.

In the Democratic primary for Orange County Board of Commissioners, Bernadette Pellissier made it official, filing for the lone at-large seat. Also running for commissioner under the new district system is Tommy McNeill of Durham, who is running for the lone District 2 seat and Pam Hemminger of Chapel Hill who is running for one of two District 1 seats.

Incumbent commissioner Valerie Foushee has indicated she will run again, but has yet to file as of Wednesday at 5 p.m.

TAX FROM PAGE 1

“I prefer no new tax at all,” said Ryan Miller, an Orange County educator and part-time farmer. However: “I would support a sales tax. I would share the burden with all of the county residents, including our transient residents.”

Others spoke in favor of the land transfer tax.

“I want to stress that the residents need to support services administered by the county,”

county resident Margaret Misch said. “[The land transfer tax] is a reasonable solution to the funding needs and it does not place a burden on the less affluent who pay sales and income taxes.”

In September, the board voted to put a tax referendum on May’s ballot rather than this past November’s ballot, expressing concern that there was insufficient time to educate the public. In October, the board formed a Local Revenue Options Education Advisory Committee to educate the public regarding the tax referendum.

The board on Tuesday also heard the results of a county-funded telephone poll, conducted by Hertzog Research, Feb. 6-13, to determine voter support for the land transfer and sales tax options.

The poll found that about 48 percent of likely voters said they would support a sales tax, while 43 percent said they would support a land transfer tax, if they had to choose between the two. According to Mark Hertzog of Hertzog Research, those results are “statistically a tie,” because of the poll’s four-percent margin of error.

The Eleventh Annual Community Dinner Sunday, March 2 ♦ 1 PM

McDougle School Cafetorium ♦ 900 Old Fayetteville Rd. in Carrboro

Celebrating Orange County’s Diverse Community
Sit down with a stranger, leave with a friend

**Lots of great entertainment
and plenty of scrumptious food!**
(Food donated from several (lots!) of local restaurants)

OUR 2008 PERFORMERS (so far):

- ♦ Ron Stutts / WCHL, Emcee ♦
- ♦ Skeedaddle ♦
- ♦ Orange County Jammers ♦
- ♦ Senior Cheer Leading Group ♦
- ♦ The TROSA Band ♦
- ♦ The Suzuki Academy of North Carolina ♦
- ♦ The Peruvian-American Association of North Carolina Dance Group ♦

TICKETS \$8 FOR ADULTS AND \$3 FOR KIDS

Tickets available at the Carrboro Branch Library at McDougle School, The Ink Spot in Carrboro, The Chapel Hill Museum Shop, The Chapel Hill News, Mama Dip’s Kitchen, The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, Market Street Books at Southern Village, Townsend, Bertram and Company at Carr Mill in Carrboro, Bon’s Homecookin’ & The Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce at 102 N.Churton Street

A large number of the tickets for the dinner are distributed to people who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend. You can feed a family of four with a \$22 donation!

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY - Because there is limited seating for this event, tickets are only available in advance, so be sure to get your tickets before we sell out.

The Community Dinner is not a fundraising event, but rather an awareness raising event, designed to bring people from all walks of life together for an afternoon of great food and entertainment.

For more information visit www.communitydinner.org

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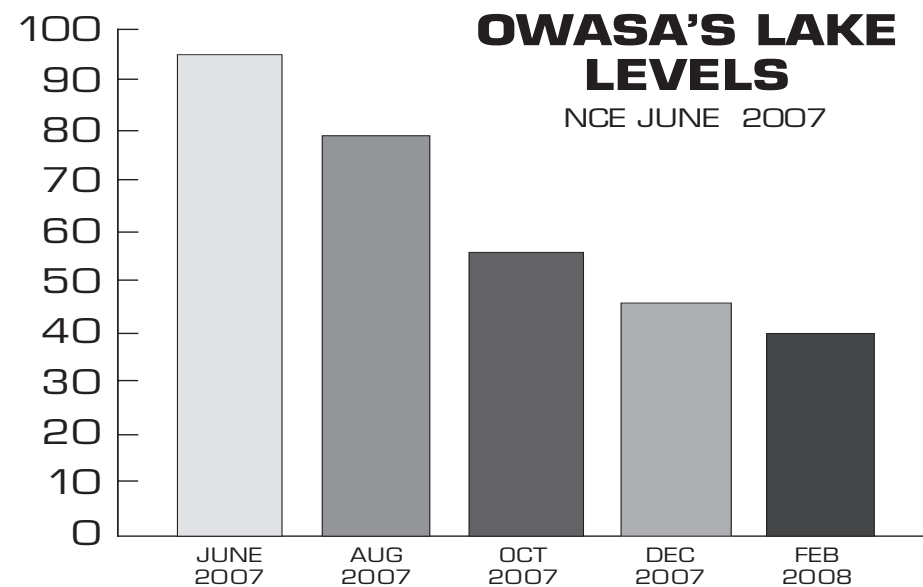
OWASA Board to consider declaring stage three water shortage on February 28, 2008

On February 28th, the OWASA Board of Directors will consider formally declaring a Stage Three Water Shortage. The Stage Three declaration would result in additional water use restrictions as indicated below. The restrictions would be enforced under local water conservation ordinances for OWASA customers.

On February 14th, the OWASA Board agreed to advise customers that the Board may take action on the 28th regarding Stage Three restrictions.

All customers are invited to attend and participate in the OWASA Board meeting on February 28th at 7:00 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The meeting will be televised live on channel 18 of the local cable systems.

OWASA staff has recommended that the Board declare the Stage Three Water Shortage if water supplies have not risen to 45% full by February 28th. Rain in recent days has not significantly increased the supply in OWASA’s Cane Creek Reservoir, University Lake and the Stone Quarry Reservoir west of Carrboro, which rose from 39% last week to only 40% full as of February 19th.



Stage Two Shortage 15% reduction goal

- No spray irrigation except by persons regularly engaged in the sale of plants
- Irrigation by underground, drip emitters, soaker hoses, or hand-held hoses or watering cans at any time or frequency, but limited to 1/2 inch per week
- No refilling of ornamental fountains, ponds, etc.
- No vehicle washing, except at commercial or institutional car washes in which 50% of water has been recycled
- No filling or refilling empty swimming pools. Operating swimming pools may be topped off
- No OWASA water for cleaning or washing exterior building surfaces or paved areas. Pressure washing of buildings is allowed before painting to maintain structural integrity
- Residential water service terminated for use averaging over 800 gallons/day in a billing period

Stage Three Shortage 20% reduction goal

- No irrigation except with hand-held hoses or watering cans, limited to 3 days per week and no more than 1/2 inch per week
- No other outdoor use, except for emergency fire suppression or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety or welfare
- No refilling of ornamental fountains, ponds, etc.
- No washing of vehicles
- No filling, refilling, or topping off operating swimming pools
- No cleaning of building exteriors
- No flushing or pressure testing of new mains unless water is recycled
- Water use for heating and cooling to be reduced to the maximum extent practicable
- Residential water service terminated for use over 600 gallons/day in a billing period

Water rates per 1,000 gallons in Stage Two and Three Shortages

During declared Water Shortages, higher water rates are put into effect to encourage greater conservation. The rate surcharges are increased as the severity of the Water Shortage increases. All revenues from the surcharges are used solely to pay for the costs of OWASA’s operation and maintenance

programs and capital improvements projects.

Under Stage Two, water rate surcharges applied only to individually-metered residential customers. However, under Stage Three, the surcharges will apply to all customers, including businesses, the University, master-metered residential properties, etc.

Surcharged rates for individually-metered residential customers who pay increasing block water rates					
SHORTAGE LEVEL	BLOCK 1 0-2,000 gals per month	BLOCK 2 3,000-5,000 gals per month	BLOCK 3 6,000-10,000 gals per month	BLOCK 4 11,000-15,000 gals per month	BLOCK 5 16,000 or more gals per month
Stage 2	No surcharge Block 1 rate is \$1.98/1,000 gallons	No surcharge Block 2 rate is \$4.70/1,000 gallons	1.5 x Block 3 rate or \$8.295/1,000 gallons	2 x Block 4 rate or \$14.92/1,000 gallons	3 x Block 5 rate or \$39.15/1,000 gallons
Stage 3	No surcharge Block 1 rate is \$1.98/1,000 gallons	1.25 x Block 2 rate or \$5.875/1,000 gallons	2 x Block 3 rate or \$11.06/1,000 gallons	3 x Block 4 rate or \$22.38/1,000 gallons	4 x Block 5 rate or \$52.20/1,000 gallons

Surcharged rate for non-residential customers and master-metered residential customers:

In a Stage 2 Water Shortage, the off-peak seasonal water rate of \$3.08 per 1,000 gallons applies from October through April and the peak seasonal rate of \$5.85 applies from May through September.

The surcharge rate during Stage 3 and Emergency water shortages is 1.25 times the peak seasonal water rate of \$5.85 per 1,000 gallons (as of October 1, 2007), for a surcharge rate of \$7.31 per 1,000 gallons.

* For non-shortage conditions, the increasing block rates that went into effect as of October 1, 2007 for individually-metered residential customers are:		
Block 1	1,000 – 2,000 gallons per month	\$1.98 per 1,000 gallons
Block 2	3,000 – 5,000 gallons per month	\$4.70 per 1,000 gallons
Block 3	6,000 – 10,000 gallons per month	\$5.53 per 1,000 gallons
Block 4	11,000 – 15,000 gallons per month	\$7.46 per 1,000 gallons
Block 5	16,000 or more gallons per month	\$13.05 per 1,000 gallons

Please feel free to visit or write to us at
400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro; call us at 968-4421
or send e-mail to webmaster@owasa.org

OWASA is the community-owned, non-profit agency that provides public water and sewer services to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community.



Orange Water and Sewer Authority