

Briefs

Charter school community meetings

The board of the Howard & Lillian Lee Scholars Charter School, a charter school proposed for Chapel Hill-Carrboro, will hold community information meetings today (Thursday) and Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Maple View Agricultural Education Center.

The board is looking into the possibility of opening a public charter elementary school in the area, and the State Board of Education is set to make a decision on the school on Wednesday. For more information, call (866) 642-3676.

Chapel Hill 2020 meeting today

Chapel Hill 2020 will host a community-planning meeting today (Thursday) from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Estes Hills Elementary School.

The community is urged to attend in order to participate in the development of a new comprehensive plan that will guide the town's future. Meeting materials are available at chapelhill2020.org.

OWASA blood drive

OWASA will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday in the Community Room of the OWASA Administration Building

Donors must be in general good health, have photo identification, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old or 16 years old with parental consent.

To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

Carrboro loose-leaf collection ends

Carrboro's residential loose-leaf collection service will end on March 2.

Leaves may be bagged as of March 5 and placed at the curbside for pickup according to residents' normal waste-collection schedule. The town will pick up no more than eight plastic bags or an unlimited number of paper bags filled with leaves per household.

CASA celebrates anniversary

CASA, a nonprofit housing development and property management company, will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Friday at the Carrboro Century Center.

The mission of CASA is to create affordable housing and opportunities for successful living, focusing on housing persons of low wealth and those with disabilities. In the organization's 20 years of operation, CASA has built or renovated nearly 300 housing units in Orange, Durham and Wake counties.

The event, also a celebration of CASA's recent purchase of the Club Nova apartments in Carrboro, will run from 9:45-11 a.m.

Seven-story project proposed for MLK

BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — A new plan is in the works for a seven-story student-housing development at 602 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., the current site of Central Park Apartments.

The Chapel Hill Town Council heard preliminary plans for the project during a concept plan review Monday night. Trinitas Multi-Family Development, a company based in Lafayette, Ind., that specializes in student-housing development, proposes about 428,000 square feet of floor area in four seven-story buildings on 9.1 acres. The proposal includes 319 two- to four-bedroom apartments, 200 parking spaces and amenities including a pool and fitness center.

If the project is approved, the three Central Park Apartments buildings, formerly known as Northampton Terrace Apartments, built in the 1960s, would be torn down.

A number of neighbors of the site expressed concern about the proposed height of the project, the

*"It just seems like an awful lot of mass, and I don't like the 90-foot heights."*  
—Gene Pease

lack of parking provided and the number of students that the project would house.

"I have a sense that what's going to happen is going to affect rather negatively the way we live ... by the appearance suddenly of four or five hundred more students," said Arthur Finn, who lives on the corner of North and Hillsborough streets. "Is it right for anyone to erect another off-campus dormitory?"

Council members urged the developers to be sensitive to the historic district neighboring the site on Hillsborough Street.

"It just seems like an awful lot of mass, and I don't like the 90-foot heights," council member Gene Pease said. "I like the idea of the project, and we need more student housing close to campus, but I think this is just too much."

Council member Lee Storrow said he felt the project could fit well into the surrounding area.

"Those buildings don't strike me as inconsistent with the things around them," he said.

Several council members also said they were concerned about the amount of parking proposed.

Travis Vencel, a developer with Trinitas, said his company has used the limited-parking model in similar developments in other college towns. Residents would be required to either lease a parking spot at the development, show proof of a lease for a parking spot elsewhere or sign an agreement that they would not bring a car into Orange County, facing possible eviction for violating that agreement.

Dorosin, Rich enter commissioner race

BY TAYLOR SISK  
Staff Writer

Three more candidates filed this week to run for four seats on the Orange County Board of Commissioners in the May 8 primaries.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Penny Rich and former Carrboro Board of Aldermen member Mark Dorosin will be running against incumbent Pam Hemminger, who filed last week, for two seats in District 1. All three are Democrats. Mary Carter, a Republican, filed to run for an at-large seat.

Incumbent Democrat Bernadette Pelissier had previously filed to run for an at-large seat. Incumbent Steve Yuhasz and Renee Price are running in the Democratic primary for one District 2 seat, and Chris Weaver

will run for the same seat in the Republican primary.

In state Senate District 23, which includes Orange County, Republican Dave Carter has filed to run. Democrat Sen. Ellie Kinnaird had previously announced her intention to run for a ninth term.

In the N.C. House of Representatives District 50 race, Democrat Travis Phelps filed to run against Orange County Commissioner Valerie Foushee, who announced last week her intention to run for the seat.

Under redistricting plans, District 50 will include portions of Orange and Durham counties. That seat is now held by Bill Faison, who announced he will seek the Democratic nomination for governor.

Thomas Samuel Wright filed to run for the Republican nomi-

nation for the District 50 seat, joining Rod Chaney and W. Lewis Hannah Jr., who both filed last week, in that race.

In District 56, which includes Carrboro and Chapel Hill, Republican Karrie Mead announced she will run for the seat held by Rep. Verla Insko. Insko, a Democrat, announced last week that she would run for reelection.

**Chatham County**

In House District 54, Republican Cathy Wright and Democrats Deb McManus, a member of the Chatham County Board of Education, and Jeff Starkweather will seek election to the seat held by Joe Hackney, who announced he will not run for reelection. The newly drawn District 54 includes all of Chatham County and a portion of

Lee County.

Republican Sam Shriver filed to run for the District 1 seat on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Democrat Sally Kost announced last week she will seek reelection to that seat. Mike Cross had previously filed to run for reelection to his District 2 seat, and remains unchallenged.

David Hamm will seek reelection to his District 2 seat on the Chatham County Board of Education. Karen Howard filed last week to run for the District 1 seat. The board of education races are nonpartisan.

Chatham County Register of Deeds Treva Seagroves, a Democrat, also filed to run for reelection.

The deadline for filing for all offices is noon on Feb. 29.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

HOW TO REACH US

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Photo by Catharine Carter

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