

News Briefs

Community workshop concerns roads

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization will host another community workshop on Feb. 25 to present the alternative scenarios that have been developed for the mobility and development in the N.C. 54/Interstate 40 corridor, a gateway linking Durham, Chapel Hill and UNC. The elements of the scenarios come from technical data analysis and existing plan guidance and the input that was gathered during and after the first public workshop held in November 2009. Prior to a second workshop, interested participants can view the developed scenarios on the project's website at nc54-140c0rr9d0rstudy.com and can come to the workshop prepared with thoughts and questions.

Display commemorates struggle

Designs for a monument park in Raleigh commemorating the courage and creativity of the black struggle for freedom in North Carolina is on display at the Chapel Hill Town Hall until Feb. 25. Developed by a Chapel Hill team of multimedia artist Juan Logan, landscape architect David Swanson and art historian Lyneise Williams, this monument will be called Freedom Grove and highlights the value and cost of freedom for all, as exemplified by the African-American experience. This exhibition is part of the Public Arts Office's Exhibition Series. Colorful display boards illustrate the overall site design and concepts for individual components of the Freedom Monument.

Board makes appointments boards

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen discussed and made appointments to the town's advisory board Tuesday night at Town Hall during its weekly board meeting. In February of each year, some terms on all the town's advisory boards expire. Those persons whose terms expired were notified and told if they wished to be re-appointed, they must apply. In addition, all positions were advertised for the general public.

Three UNC women receive awards

UNC honored three people on Wednesday with University Awards for the Advancement of Women. A reception for winners helped kick off the campus' Women's Week 2010. This year's honorees are Laurie McNeil, professor in the physics and astronomy department in the College of Arts and Sciences; Melinda Manning, assistant dean of students; and Parastoo Hashemi, a postdoctoral research associate in the chemistry department in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Suit filed over Galloway Ridge murders

The estates of two elderly women who were beaten to death at Galloway Ridge retirement community have filed wrongful death suits in Chatham County Superior Court against the owners of the facility. Margaret Murta, 92, and Mary Corcoran, 82, were beaten to death in December 2007 in a dispute over forged checks. A third victim, Rebecca Fisher, 77, was critically injured in the attack but recovered. Barbara Clark of Pittsboro, who cleaned the victims' apartment, pleaded guilty to charges of first-degree murder in 2008 and is serving consecutive life sentences without parole. The suit detail's Clark's prior conviction for fraud and alleges that Galloway Ridge failed to provide adequate protection and security to its residents.

Durham's El Centro Hispano aids Carrboro Latinos

BY VICTORIA HAMBY  
Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

With the opening of a new office at Carrboro Plaza later this year, the Latino community once again will have its resource center. The board of directors of El Centro Latino, an organization that officially closed its doors in November of last year due to financial problems, has announced plans to merge with El Centro Hispano, located in Durham. The new center will be recognized as a Carrboro branch of El Centro Hispano. According to Josmell Perez, a member of El Centro Latino's board of directors and multicultural programs coordinator for the Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at UNC, the two organizations share similar purposes and El Centro Hispano has sufficient financial resources to support an office in Carrboro. He said the Carrboro branch of El Centro Hispano will address concerns from the Latino community

that were raised after El Centro Latino ceased operations. "We received concerns from the Latino community, not only about the lack of a central gathering place, but many were also afraid that they would not have a place to turn to where they could find someone to help them out with their problems," Perez said. "They were concerned about the lack of a support system." El Centro Latino opened in 1999 in the Douglas Building in downtown Carrboro. In addition to providing individualized employment assistance, the center conducted after-school programs for Latino children and held events that raised cultural awareness. Perez said that El Centro Hispano's Carrboro branch will offer the same services previously offered by El Centro Latino. "It is a place where they feel they can go, with whatever issues they may have," he said. "It is sort of their one-stop shop." Perez said that in the two months following El Centro Latino's closure, other nonprofit

organizations around Chapel Hill and Carrboro volunteered to help address the needs of Carrboro's Latino community. Judith Blau, director of the Chapel Hill and Carrboro Human Rights Center and a UNC sociology professor, said her organization frequently consulted with El Centro Latino, particularly when the two organizations collaborated to plan Festival Latino last April. The center also petitioned the Carrboro Board of Aldermen in January to criminalize the practice of withholding the wage's of day laborers "We recognize the scope of the services that El Centro Latino had and we are – on a smaller scale – trying to replicate them," Blau said. Sarah Gilbert, a UNC senior political science and journalism major from Mooresville who volunteered at El Centro Latino her freshman year, said she is relieved to hear that efforts to reach out to the Latino community will continue in Carrboro. "I used to volunteer with El Centro Latino, and I was very

impressed with the work they were doing in the community," Gilbert said. "I helped out at events that they held to increase awareness about their programs, and I was very disappointed when I learned that they were being forced to shut down due to funding problems. "The work that they do is incredibly important, so I'm glad they have found a way to continue to support the Latino community." A public meeting will be held Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Seymour Senior Center at 2551 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill to introduce the Carrboro branch of El Centro Hispano to the community and answer any questions the public may have. For more information, contact El Centro Hispano at 687-4635.

Victoria Hamby is a UNC student writing for the Carrboro Commons, a bi weekly online lab newspaper for Jock Lauterer's community journalism class at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Council sets forum on cell phones and driving

The Chapel Hill Town Council scheduled a public forum for Feb. 22 to hear public comment on proposed regulations for cell phone use while driving in town limits. The forum came out of a suggestion by council member Penny Rich that the town consider banning driving while using a phone, a move that may require the town to go to the legislature for approval. Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt said after the forum that the council would have to consider whether to add it to the town's legislative agenda. He said it is unlikely that action would be taken up in the upcoming short session of the legislature. In other action the council:

- authorized a contract for \$509,000 for drainage improvements near the intersection of Pinehurst and Burning Tree drives;
- heard an annual update from the Chapel Hill and Orange County Visitor's Bureau and a request from director Laurie Paolicelli that the town help the bureau in setting up a tourist shuttle that would run a loop through campus and downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro, with stops that would include University Mall, the Carolina Basketball Museum, the N.C. Botanical Garden, Weaver Street Market and Morehead Planetarium;
- approved a change to the rules for the town's Affordable Housing Fund to allow renovation funds to be used for rental properties. The change was requested by the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services to allow it and other agencies that offer rental housing access to town funds. —From Staff Reports

Fraley family files suit

BY BETH MECHUM  
Staff Writer

The family of Atlas Fraley has filed a lawsuit alleging negligence in his death. Fraley, a 17-year-old Chapel Hill High School football player, died Aug. 12, 2008 in his home following a 911 call at 1:45 p.m., in which he told responders his body hurt all over and he thought he needed fluids. According to Orange County Emergency Services, a paramedic arrived at Fraley's home on Fan Branch Lane at 1:53 p.m. and left at 2:16 p.m. When Fraley's parents returned home around 6 p.m., they found their son dead. In the suit, the Fraley family blames Orange County, Orange County Emergency Services and paramedic James Griffin for not showing proper

care that could have kept the teenager alive. Though an autopsy couldn't provide a definitive explanation for Fraley's death, it did suggest that dehydration and cramping may have led to a fatal heart attack. Griffin was the paramedic who responded to Fraley's 911 call hours before he died. He was reprimanded by the county, had his paramedic privileges revoked and later resigned from his job. Orange County conducted an internal investigation, which found Griffin had failed to complete protocols, including contacting Fraley's parents and taking his temperature. The internal investigation makes up much of the basis of the lawsuit, which was filed last month in Orange County Superior Court.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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