

GRANT
FROM PAGE 1

The town now has 10 firefighters per shift with plans to go to 11 when the new hires are ready. Officers and drivers typically work ten 24-hour shifts each month.

Aside from tight quarters, the chief said the department is also trying to get in the training and experience to staff a two-station operation.

“A lot of folks have stepped up and taken on new responsibilities,” he said.

Carrboro Town Manager Steve Stewart said the new grant will help the town’s bottom line in the next fiscal year. But he cautioned that construction and other costs related to the new station along with continuing sidewalk construction will still make it a tough budget year.

THE MILL

Not for sale
FYI: The Orange County Social Club is not for sale. A sign promoting this weekend’s poster show by artist Ron Liberti on the front of the club has the words “For Sale By Owner” writ large. It’s caused several doubletakes for passersby. The show is from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday. Posters are for sale, and so are the beverages, of course.

DINNER
FROM PAGE 1

Cookin’, the Carolina Inn, Tandoor Indian and Bandidos.

Side dishes will feature the flavors of more than 20 local restaurants, churches and chefs, including Lantern, Jade Palace, Bonne Soiree, Margaret’s Cantina and Crawdad-dy’s. All food is donated, and this year the dinner will feature food prepared using ingredients produced by local farmers.

“What [the founders] were trying to do is show the diversity in our community,” Helvey said. “The other idea was to maybe introduce people to food that they’d never tasted before.”

In addition, Levy said the committee tries to arrange a diverse group of performers for the dinner.

“We try to represent different ethnic groups. If they’re not on the stage, they’re on the table,” Levy said.

The community dinner also provides tickets for those who are unable to purchase them, using county funding and donations from businesses and individuals, Helvey said, in order to make the event as inclusive as possible.

“Nobody knows who paid for their ticket and who didn’t,” she said.

If there are leftovers, they will be donated to the Inter-Faith Council.

Helvey added that the committee encourages people to sit down at the dinner with people they don’t know.

“People get to come and meet people who they’ve never met before,” Levy said.

Over the years, the event has drawn attention from groups in other counties; this year, Durham will have its own community dinner.

“The dinner has been used as a model in different places,” Levy said.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for kids and are on sale at the following locations: the Carrboro Branch Library at McDougle School, the Ink Spot, 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 Co., Bon’s Home Cookin’ and the Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce.

Levy said she expects the tickets to sell out before the event, so those who want to go should get their tickets early.

To donate or to volunteer at the event, contact Levy at rileyv@mindspring.com. For more information, visit www.communitydinner.org.

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

is to spot clusters of what appear to be miniature pine cones. The little cones of the Tag Alder are generally one-half-inch long. They remain on the branches well into the second year. Your second challenge here, as with the hazelnut, is to locate the small swollen buds of the female flowers with red stigma threads reaching out for wind-borne Tag Alder pollen.

Now you’re ready for your botany quiz. Why don’t these early-spring-flowering natives have showy petals? Reflect for a bit. Our early Piedmont springs are intermingled with our late Piedmont winters and native plants have devised clever strategies for success in the on-again, off-again cold weather. These plants don’t waste energy producing showy flowers to attract insect pollinators. Early-spring temperatures are too cold for significant insect activity, so these plants depend on the wind

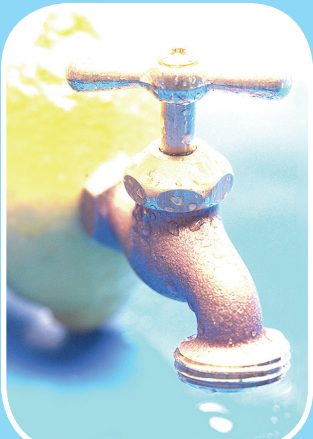


PHOTO BY KEN MOORE
Female Hazelnut Flowers

to assist in pollination. Flower petals, in addition to wasting plant energy, would simply get in the way of wind pollination.

Taking a close-up look at the beauty of petalless flowers is a pure delight; it makes me feel like I’ve never had a better day! I hope you will make your day better with a closer look. Better yet, take your kids and friends out with you and give them a better day by sharing your closer look at nature’s subtler beauties.

WATER WATCH * WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20



LAKE LEVELS
UNIVERSITY LAKE: 4' 11.25" below full
CANE CREEK RESERVOIR: 16' 1.75" below full

PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH
JONES FERRY WATER TREATMENT PLANT: 2.85"
CANE CREEK RESERVOIR: 1.62"

CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND
Past 7 days (average): 6.741 million gallons
Past 30 days (average): 7.320 million gallons

ESTIMATED WATER SUPPLY REMAINING:
196 days worth (about 6 months), based on average demand in the last 30 days, and assuming no further rainfall.

[tip]: While you wait for hot water from a faucet or showerhead, save the cool to lukewarm water in a container to use on plants.
(Tip courtesy of OWASA. More tips at OWASA.org)



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