

Briefs



Occupy Chapel Hill/Carrboro will begin a transition with a celebration on Jan. 10. PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

Occupy Chapel Hill/Carrboro

Occupy Chapel Hill/Carrboro will be transitioning to a new phase of its occupation and would like everyone to come out and help celebrate the “potential of the 99 percent movement.” The transition starts on Jan. 10 with the Occupy camp at Peace and Justice Plaza in Chapel Hill taking down their tents at 3 p.m. and cleaning up the plaza. A press conference will follow at 4:30 p.m., when occupiers will present their plans for the future of the Occupy movement, including plans for teach-ins, roving encampments and the establishment of a central indoor space. A General Assembly will be held at 6 p.m., and a dance party, also at the plaza, starting at 8 p.m., will cap off the afternoon’s events.

No love for Carrboro

The Town of Carrboro was notified this week by the BBC that Carrboro was not selected as the location for the filming of the *Lovetown, USA* documentary series. In a phone conference with Annette Stone, the town’s economic and community development director, BBC producers said that Carrboro was a “wonderfully unique community and that there was not a single thing the Town could have done differently to be selected.” The show will air on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). The town was first notified that it was being considered as a location for the show on Nov. 4. It was then announced in December that Carrboro was one of two finalists. The producers have not officially said the name of the other town under consideration.

Chapel Hill 2020

Current and prospective participants of Chapel Hill 2020 are invited to attend the Innovate 2020 Unconference on Jan. 21. Attendees will have a chance to discuss and brainstorm new ideas for the Chapel Hill 2020 plan while attending various sessions throughout the day. Chapel Hill 2020 is a communitywide effort to create a new comprehensive plan for the future of Chapel Hill. The Unconference will take place in Hamilton Hall on UNC’s campus at 9:30 a.m. and is free to attend. To learn more, visit innovate2020.pbworks.com/w/page/48204616/FrontPage, or to sign up, visit facebook.com/events/344594695557580

Christmas tree mulching

If you have a Christmas tree or wreath to dispose of in Chapel Hill, place it outside on your regular yard-waste collection day and town crews will remove it for mulching. Make sure all decoration, tinsel and wire is removed from trees and wreaths before placing them at the curb. For more information, call the public works department at 969-5100.

2012 tax listing forms

The Chatham County Tax Office has mailed out the 2012 property tax listing notices to all county residents. Any property owners in Chatham County who have not received their listing forms by Friday, Jan. 6 should call the tax office immediately at 542-8250. Taxpayers are encouraged to pay special attention to where to return the forms and to the option to receive the forms and other tax bills electronically. The listing period is from Jan. 3 to Jan. 31; listings received after Jan. 31 will be subject to a late listing penalty equal to 10 percent of taxes owed. Businesses can request listing extensions by visiting www.chathamnc.org/Business-Listing

Buses to the Dean Dome

The Tar Heel Express shuttle will provide service this Saturday for the UNC men’s basketball game against Boston College at 2:30 p.m. at the Dean Smith Center. Shuttle service will begin at 1:00 p.m. from the Friday Center, Southern Village and Jones Ferry park-and-ride lots. Buses will not operate from the University Mall park-and-ride lot for this game. Tickets are \$3 for one-way and \$5 roundtrip. A shuttle will also run from the Carolina Coffee Shop and will cost \$2 one-way or \$4 roundtrip. The shuttles will run every 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the game and will operate for 45 minutes following the game. The Tar Heel Express will drop off and pick up in front of the Dean Smith Center on Bowles Drive.

Branch Street closure

Branch Street is closed near its intersection with Airport Drive until Jan. 14 for construction of an electrical duct bank for UNC. A signed detour route is provided for motorists. Airport Drive will be open.

Mixed reactions to deer feeding ban

BY LANEY TIPTON
Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons

It’s been two months since the Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted to pass an ordinance prohibiting residents from feeding deer, and some residents are questioning whether it will yield the results the town hoped for. The feeding ban was put in place because of the danger to public safety the growing deer population posed, as well as the damage deer were causing to local landscaping and gardens. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission estimates that there are 30 to 44 deer per square mile in Orange County. But some residents, like Scott Parrott, don’t think the deer population causes a threat to the town. “I consider deer one of the perks of living in Carrboro,” Parrott wrote in an email. “Some of my most pleasant memories of living in Carrboro are coming across deer while walking in the morning or while being out for a jog around dusk.” Parrott said he was not aware of the ban – another cause for concern for residents doubting the ban’s effectiveness. “The town could probably do more to publicize the ban,” Parrott wrote in his email. “Especially since it carries a \$25 fine.” Ben Vollmer, a resident of North Greensboro Street, said he supports the ban because of the dangers deer overpopulation

“Some of my most pleasant memories of living in Carrboro are coming across deer while walking in the morning or while being out for a jog around dusk.”
— Scott Parrott

can present. “Deer already manage to get into gardens and encroach on people’s property as it is,” Vollmer said. “We should not be encouraging them to venture out of the woods and into neighborhoods where they are much more likely to cause accidents.” Not everyone in the community has embraced the deer-feeding ban. Daniel Blackwell, who lives off the N.C. 54 bypass, said he does not support it. “I know many people who thoroughly enjoy deer and nature-watching, so if they choose to feed deer on their own property, I don’t see where any form of government has the right to tell them they cannot feed the wildlife in their property,” Blackwell said. “What’s next? You can’t feed the birds in your backyard?” At the same meeting where the ban was passed, the board decided to postpone a decision about an urban archery policy they’ve also been considering, which would allow bow hunters to hunt deer within the town limits.


Avid deer hunter and Carrboro resident Greg Barnes said he would support this policy, but he’s unsure whether it would be successful. “I believe simply making it legal to hunt within town limits won’t do much,” Barnes said. “They need to make land more accessible to hunters if they want any meaningful population reduction.” Barnes says he’s worried because of the damage deer overpopulation can cause. “Besides the obvious threat of property damage, deer overpopulation can lead to the spread of disease,” he said. “The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has warned hunters to keep an eye out because there are increased incidents this year.”

Laney Tipton 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.

Weaver Street work nearly complete


CARRBORO – Construction on West Weaver Street is in its final stage as the yearlong project to replace the street’s collapsing roadbed and the 80-year-old water main beneath it progresses. The project moved into Phase 5 in early December, and is currently closed at the west end of the street. While the construction time depends on weather and other factors, it is estimated to take two to three weeks to complete. Contractors will continue to replace the pavement near the intersection of Elm Street, causing the intersection to be closed, with access from Poplar Avenue or Shelton Street. Work on the east block was completed in July, at which point the contractor began work on the second phase of the project in the west block. Work is progressing from east to west, toward Carrboro Town Hall. The water main was already replaced in the west block, while work was completed in the east block. Pedestrian access remains open along the block, though pedestrians may be directed to one side of the street or the other depending on the proximity of construction activities. The contractor will typically work during daylight hours, Monday-Friday, though weekend work may occur depending on progress and scheduling.

— Staff Reports



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Weaver Street Businesses are OPEN!
during the street reconstruction project

Start your new year off with a visit to the local businesses on Weaver Street!

- N.C. Crafts Gallery owner
Sara Gress



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