




This Weekend



FRIDAY
90% Chance of Precip
59/36 °F



SATURDAY
10% Chance of Precip
58/31 °F



SUNDAY
10% Chance of Precip
52/27 °F

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Spotted wintergreen sports striped leaves on a short stem.
PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

What is wintergreen?

The most obvious evergreen features of the winter forest floor are numerous extensive carpets of Christmas ferns, *Polystichum acrostichoides* (see Flora, “Christmas ferns”). Such fern carpets indicate a bit more moisture close to the soil surface than occurring in the surrounding terrain. I also admire single specimens and small clumps of ferns here and there and can’t help but wonder how many years will pass before they become impressive spreads.

Less obvious, but notable to the observant eye, are at least five small evergreen plants that are easy to identify during the winter. Several of them in the past have been called wintergreen. Some years ago when assisting Betsy Green Moyer with *Paul Green’s Plant Book*, I was puzzled for days trying to discern exactly which botanical species were being described as “wintergreen” by old-timers who collected them for herbal medicines.

I finally decided to limit “wintergreen” to *Gautheria procumbens*, which in Bell and Lindsey’s *Wild Flowers of North Carolina* is also called checkerberry and teaberry. A common plant of northern states and our mountain counties, this wintergreen is seldom seen down here in our Piedmont.

Become familiar with the four common evergreen wildflowers pictured here by name and you can impress your woods-walking companions.

The most frequently found is *Chimaphila maculata*, spotted or striped wintergreen, sometimes called pipsissewa. Pipsissewa means “to make water” and was used as an herbal diuretic. You can use whatever name you like.

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INSIDE

Carrboro police learn Spanish

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Carrboro approves Shelton Station zoning

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CARRBORO – In a decision that could allow for the development of the proposed Shelton Station mixed-use development, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday voted 4-3 to approve the rezoning of property planned for the project near the intersection of North Greensboro and Shelton streets.

The project, proposed by Ken Reiter of Belmont Sayre, is a two-building, 110,000-square-foot development on 2.7 acres at 404, 406 and 500 N. Greensboro St. and 113 Parker St. A

two-story building with 24,000 square feet of commercial property would face North Greensboro Street. A four-story building, set back from the first and running perpendicular to Parker Street, would house 96 residential units with parking below them.

The rezoning clears the way for the project to go through the conditional use permit process, in which developers will hammer out the details of Shelton Station, subject to approval by town officials.

Reiter said public input has been important throughout the development of the project, noting that public

involvement will continue through the CUP process.

“While [the rezoning] was a big hurdle, we still have a long way to go,” he said.

Previously, developers proposed a front building with a third story of residential units, but made changes in order to reduce the total number of residential units from 116 to 96 and thus avoid Department of Transportation regulations that would have required adding a turn lane on North Greensboro Street, potentially cutting into the front yards of houses across the street.

In order for the development and

other similar projects to be considered, the board in November approved zoning changes that would allow greater residential density in developments in exchange for mutually agreed-upon conditions for site and building elements to be met in the project, like sustainable-building features, affordable-housing provisions and more, as well as at least 20 percent non-residential development.

Board members were split on the project, with Randee Haven-O’Donnell, Lydia Lavelle, Sammy

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ONE *messy* DEBATE



TIMELINE OF TRASH

THE HISTORY OF THE EUBANKS ROAD LANDFILL

1972: The town of Chapel Hill purchases land just north of town on Eubanks Road in order to place on it a solid-waste landfill. The residents – mostly black, and with family histories of having worked and lived upon the land in this community for many generations – are told this will be the only landfill placed in their neighborhood and that in 10 years it will be covered and become a park.

1997: Public officials promise to make enhancements to the Rogers Road community.

2000: Orange County takes over management of the landfill from Chapel Hill.

2006: Waste production in Orange County is down 47.7 percent from 1991, extending the landfill’s life beyond previous estimates.

MARCH 2007: The Orange County Board of Commissioners votes unanimously to build a solid-waste transfer station at the site of the landfill, anticipating that the landfill will reach capacity in 2010.

NOVEMBER 2007: Residents of the community – led by the Rogers-Eubanks Coalition to End Environmental Racism – have alleged environmental racism, saying 35 years of a landfill is enough of a burden for one community to bear, and have demanded the search be reopened. The commissioners reopen the search for a solid-waste transfer station.

2008: After a year-long search for a solid-waste transfer station, the commissioners approve a site on N.C. 54 across from the intersection with Morrow Mill Road.

MAY 2009: Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy suggests a Chapel Hill-owned location on Millhouse Road north of the new Town Operations Center – a mile to the southwest of Rogers-Eubanks – as a possible alternative to the N.C. 54 site for the transfer station.

OCTOBER 2009: The Chapel Hill Town Council puts an end to months of speculation about whether the town might provide a site it owns on Millhouse Road for a new waste transfer station by rejecting a plan to look at the feasibility of the site.

DECEMBER 2009: The commissioners vote to have the county ship its garbage to Durham County’s transfer station.

MAY 2011: The commissioners vote to create a special fund to help pay for community projects in the Rogers Road area, with monies accrued through a \$5 surcharge on every ton of waste that trucks dump at the landfill.

OCTOBER 2011: The commissioners vote not to pursue extending the life of the landfill and to declare an intent to close it in 2013. County solid-waste staff had determined that the life of the landfill could be extended until as late as 2018.

PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

Yates investigator decision postponed

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – Postponing a decision on whether to hire an outside investigator to report on incidents surrounding the Nov. 13 raid of the former Yates Motor Co. building, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted unanimously on Monday to refer a

petition requesting the investigator to staff.

The town’s Community Policing Advisory Committee submitted the petition after the town council referred the review to the committee, voting not to consider a measure proposing an independent review of the events. CPAC members said they felt they needed the assistance of an

outside investigator to adequately review the incident, noting the extensive time involved in interviewing involved parties.

“For the Community Policing Advisory Committee to effectively do its work, we feel that we need to develop a full and complete factual review of all the circumstances,” CPAC Chair Ron Bogle said.

Bogle noted that the committee’s request was not a criticism of the internal review conducted by Town Manager Roger Stancil and police Chief Chris Blue – which stated that the actions of police were the best decisions that could have been made given the information available at the

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Sixty years of supporting the schools

RECENTLY ...
BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Sixty years ago, a new idea was launched in a donated space on West Franklin Street that later became an invaluable resource for our community in multiple ways.

On Feb. 29, 1952, volunteers waded through a line that had formed an hour before the 9 a.m. opening of the “Thrifty Shop,” which a group of mothers hoped would provide the funds to hire an art teacher. At that time, Chapel Hill Elementary School was next door to the high school, where University Square is today. Glenwood Elementary would open in 1953, and the school system and PTA had no funds for art.

The “Art Mothers” had been providing lectures on art using paintings on loan from UNC, but they wanted more for their children. They got serious, changing their name to the Chapel Hill School Art Guild, doing some research, using their imaginations and stimulating the whole community. They reached out to every business with their expectations of support and enticed people from all over town to donate usable goods of any sort that they no longer needed or wanted.

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Barbara Jessie-Black, executive director of the PTA Thrift Shop, looks forward to celebrating its 60th anniversary this week and to the revamping of the Carrboro complex (depicted in drawing), slated for completion next year.
PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ