

News Briefs

Fire insurance ratings improve

Both the Town of Carrboro and the South Orange Fire District received new insurance ratings effective Jan. 1.

The new ratings – 3 for the Town of Carrboro and 5 for the South Orange Fire District – are an improvement over the previous 4 for the town and 9S for South Orange. The North Carolina Response Rating System ranges from 1 (best) to 10 (not recognized as a certified fire department). The ratings are based on inspections of proper staffing levels, sufficient apparatus, proper maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities and availability of water sources.

Better ratings can significantly lower property insurance rates and Carrboro Fire Chief Travis Crabtree recommends that property owners served by Carrboro contact their insurance providers and advise them of the improved ratings.

Ag summit set

The 11th Annual Orange County Agricultural Summit will be held Feb. 9 from 8:30 a.m. until lunchtime at the former Orange Enterprise site on Valley Forge Rd. in Hillsborough.

The featured speaker is North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler. Topics of discussion will include youth in agriculture, farm diversification, energy conservation and how to enhance farm income with hunting leases.

A lunch of locally grown agricultural products will be served. Registration is \$5. To register or for additional information, contact the Orange County office of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at 245-2050 by Feb. 5.

Hackney wins new term as speaker

Rep. Joe Hackney, who represents Chatham County and part of southern Orange County, won a second term as speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives Wednesday. Upon his election, Hackney, who has served 28 years in the House, encouraged legislators to rise to the challenge and work to reinvigorate the state's economy and continue to improve education.

911 center moves

The Orange County 9-1-1 Call Center moved to the new Orange County Emergency Services Building on Meadowland Drive in Hillsborough on Tuesday.

The new facility has new equipment and more space that will allow for improved service and future growth.

Those calling 911 should see no change in service. However, if callers with an emergency have any problems connecting to 911, they should call 732-5063.

COUNCIL

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University architect Anna Wu said the building would then become part of the larger Carolina North project.

The special-use permit approved includes language that would require the stipulations to be carried over to the project.

Although the permit was approved, there were several points of contention, including a discussion about energy efficiency that led to a brief, sharp exchange between council member Jim Ward and Bruce Runberg, associate

vice chancellor of facilities and planning.

Ward pressed the university to commit to a higher energy-savings standard than proposed. When Runberg offered an alternative, Ward said he did not want to get into "horse trading" when it came to measures on global warming and climate change.

"If we are concerned about global warming and climate change, then doggone it, let's make this innovative," he said.

Runberg said the university has a solid record on energy efficiency and would likely surpass the goals set for the building.

Another point yet to work out is

Recycling market crash hits county budget

BY RICH FOWLER  
Staff Writer

Thanks in part to its recycling programs, Orange County residents lead the state in waste reduction. They now throw away half of what they threw away in 1991, and things were going so well until recently that the county was making money by selling the materials it collected.

But when the recycling markets crashed last October amid the declining global economy, what was once a growing source of income for the county suddenly became a new expense.

In the last three years, Orange County has been steadily making more and more money from selling the materials it collects through its community recycling programs. In 2005-06, the county got \$326,830 and by 2007-08 it was getting \$518,895 for the recyclables it collects from rural residents, drop-off centers and businesses.

Now, instead of getting paid for the materials it collects, the county has to pay to have them hauled off to be recycled. After it's processed, it's usually sold

on the market at a loss. For the last six months, the county has made \$217,752, but a large part of that came from the three months when the market was at its peak.

Orange County Solid Waste planner Blair Pollock said the sudden change in the market has hit many places hard.

"We're paying to recycle. Some communities have stopped recycling because they don't want to bear the costs," he said.

In a tight budget year, the focus is going to be on preserving services.

"We will essentially hit the wall like everyone else this year on our ability to provide services," Pollock said. "Certainly no new services can come out of the current budget."

Residents of Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Hillsboro aren't affected by the changes in the recycling markets as much as rural residents because the county has a five-year contract with Waste Industries Inc. to handle curbside recycling in those towns.

Waste Industries charges the county a fixed fee per house, then sells the materials it collects. In

2007-08, the program cost the county \$720,788. The county's contract with Waste Industries runs through March 2011.

One more planned addition to the volume of recycling will come in March. Corrugated cardboard has already been banned from commercial trash, and on March 1, 2009 it will be banned from residential trash too.

So what can residents do? "We really want people to focus on genuinely using less stuff," Pollock said. "That's the biggest paradigm shift for right now."

Reducing the amount of stuff residents throw away or recycle can be as simple as:

- Composting organic waste.
- Choosing reusable products over disposable ones. Use a water bottle instead of buying bottled water and use rechargeable batteries instead of disposable ones.
- Using cloth instead of paper for things like napkins, dish cloths and grocery bags.
- Considering packaging when buying products, and buying products from companies or stores that take back their old

containers, like egg cartons or milk bottles.

Another thing residents can do to save the county money is not bundle recycled materials in plastic bags when they dispose of them.

"Anything in a plastic bag is really nothing but costly and processing painful for us. Our guys try to open the bags, because we get penalized for lower quality of material," Pollock said.

When will the markets for recycled materials get better? At a recent gathering of recycling industry members in Chapel Hill, nobody had any idea when prices would improve.

A recent report from the state Division of Waste Management said that the recycling markets should improve when the global economy recovers, but said that 2009 will be a tough year for selling recycled materials.

For more tips on reducing and reusing waste, check out the Environmental Protection Agency website at [www.epa.gov/epa-waste/conserv/rrr](http://www.epa.gov/epa-waste/conserv/rrr) and for more information about community recycling, go to [www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling)

ALDERMAN

FROM PAGE 1

"Our children are accustomed to walking to school with very little vehicle traffic," she said. "It's a major safety concern for all of us, but particularly our children."

Gardner said she would support a connecting sidewalk or bike path in place of a road.

"I have never made a connection with a neighbor while driving in my car," she said.

"We should be connecting our neighborhoods with walkways and bike paths."

Residents also expressed concerns regarding the safety of the development's proposed path under the Homestead Road bridge over Bolin Creek. Residents of the proposed phases of Claremont would use the path to cross Homestead Road to get to amenities in the areas of the first three phases of the development.

The proposed path is a concrete structure over the creek, which some residents said

would flood with a heavy rain and create unsafe conditions for cyclists and pedestrians.

In other town business, the board postponed a public hearing on the proposed Colleton Crossing development until Feb. 24 so the developer can explore other options and potentially revise proposals previously made to the board. Those who would like to comment on the development but are unable to attend the meeting should email comments to [townmanager@townofcarrboro.org](mailto:townmanager@townofcarrboro.org)

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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Where can I find my Citizen?



CARRBORO

Weaver Street Market  
The ArtsCenter  
Amante's Gourmet Pizza  
Milltown  
Carrburritos  
Piedmont Health Services  
Midway Barber Shop  
VisArt Video  
Carolina Fitness  
Carrboro Business Coop  
The Red Hen  
Orange County Social Club  
Speakeasy - Greensboro & Main  
Weaver Street Realty  
Carrboro Family Vision  
Wellness Alliance  
Century Center  
Community Realty  
Great Clips  
Cybrary  
Elmo's Diner  
Spotted Dog  
Nice Price Books  
Carrboro Town Hall  
Carrboro Town Commons  
Cliff's Meat Market  
PTA Thriftshop  
Calvander Food Mart  
Carrboro Mini Mart  
Padgett Station  
Southern Rail

Open Eye Cafe  
Carrboro Branch Library  
The Beehive  
Auto Logic  
Reservoir  
Johnny's Sporting Goods  
Carolina Cleaners Laundromat  
(Willow Creek)  
Crescent Green Assisted Living  
Jones Ferry Rd Park & Ride

CARRBORO PLAZA

Carrboro Plaza Park & Ride  
North American Video  
Tar Heel Tobacco  
Super Suds  
UPS Store  
Curves  
Wingman

WHITE CROSS

Harry's Market  
Fiesta Grill  
White Cross BP  
Express Lane

CHAPEL HILL

DOWNTOWN  
Caribou Coffee/downtown  
Visitors Center  
Jiffy Lube  
Job Development Center  
Sandwich/The Courtyard

West Franklin town racks  
(near Chapel Hill Cleaners)  
Internationalist Books  
Ham's Restaurant  
Time Out  
East Franklin town racks (near Subway)  
Courthouse Alley town racks  
North Columbia St. town racks  
(at bus stop)

UNC CAMPUS

UNC Student Union  
Bullshead Bookshop  
Davis Library / UNC  
UNC Family Medicine

EAST

Chapel Hill Post Office/Estes Drive  
Caribou Coffee/ Franklin at Estes  
Whole Foods  
Harris Teeter / University Mall  
University Mall / Kerr Drugs entrance  
VisArt Video/Elliott Rd.  
Phydeaux  
Owen's 501 Diner  
Bruegger's Bagels/Eastgate  
Peak Fitness/Elliott Rd  
Chapel Hill Public Library  
Food Lion/Ram's Plaza  
Chamber Of Commerce

NORTH

Hunan Chinese Restaurant  
Chapel Hill Senior Center  
Carol Woods  
Bagels on the Hill  
Eubanks Rd. Park & Ride  
That Coffee Place  
Cup a Joe  
Margaret's Cantina  
Chapel Hill Mini Mart

SOUTH

N.C. Botanical Garden  
Covenant House  
15-501 South Park & Ride  
GOVERNOR'S CLUB  
Bean & Barrel/ Governor's Village  
Vincenzo's Ristorante/  
Governor's Village  
Carolina Meadows/Café

MEADOWMONT

UNC Wellness Center  
Brixx Pizza  
Cafe Carolina  
LaRussa's Deli  
The Cedars  
Young Simpson Underwood  
Friday Center Park & Ride  
Courtyard Marriott

SOUTHERN VILLAGE

La Vita Dolce  
Park & Ride bus stop  
Market Square

FEARRINGTON

McIntyre's Books  
Fearrington House Inn  
Old Granary  
Galloway Ridge

HILLSBOROUGH

Weaver Street Market  
Wal-Mart  
Maple View Farms  
Visitors Center  
Chamber of Commerce  
Orange County Senior Center  
Cup a Joe / outside box  
Sportsplex  
Durham Tech/student lounge

PITTSBORO

Pittsboro General Store  
Chatham Marketplace  
Pittsboro Public Library  
Carolina Brewery  
Pittsboro Family Medicine

CHATHAM CROSSING

Torrero's Restaurant  
Chatham Crossing Medical Center  
Lowes Foods / outside box