

Briefs

Earth Day exhibitors

Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation will present the Earth Action Day Festival on April 9 from noon to 5 p.m. at Southern Community Park, featuring interactive entertainment for all ages, live music and a great food pavilion featuring local foods.

The festival allows people in the community to learn how our daily choices affect our environment, ecologically and socially.

Conservation and preservation organizations are encouraged to present exhibits at the festival.

The deadline to apply for exhibit space is March 10 and the application can be found at [townofchapelhill.org/earthday](http://townofchapelhill.org/earthday).

Restoration for Bolin Creek

The towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro will begin a restoration project on the degraded tributary of Bolin Creek that flows through Carrboro's Baldwin Park and adjoining properties in the two communities.

Construction will reshape about 480 feet of the channel, improve floodplain efficiency, reduce bank slopes and re-create riffle and pool habitats within the stream.

The work is the first of two stream restoration projects to improve water quality and habitat in Bolin Creek. The project is funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 319 grant.

Oak tree to be removed

The Town of Chapel Hill arborist is scheduled to remove a large oak tree that has been in decline for many years on the north side of West Franklin Street between March 7 and 11.

The oak is in a small raised brick planter between Mediterranean Deli and the Bookshop on the 400 block of West Franklin Street. A replacement tree will be planted nearby.

Kinnaird and Insko to speak

State Sen. Ellie Kinnaird and state Rep. Verla Insko will be the featured speakers at "A Call to Action: Rising to the Challenge of the 2011 NC General Assembly" on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Carol Woods Assembly Hall at 750 Weaver Dairy Road. The program also will feature discussions on government budget planning, taxes and civil rights.

The event is free and open to the public.

Courthouse reconstruction

On Feb. 7, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners took several actions to ensure the reconstruction of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse, including approving general floor plans, a project schedule and primary construction materials for the project.

Restoration is expected to begin in September 2011 with the completion of the project expected in September 2012.

Final drawings will be completed by June and requests for bids from contractors submitted by this summer.

Nursing school to reduce enrollment

The UNC School of Nursing announced this week that it would reduce overall undergraduate enrollments by about 25 percent because of ongoing state budget cuts.

The enrollment reductions will begin with the summer semester. In January, UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp instituted campus-wide cuts equal to a 5 percent permanent state reduction to take effect July 1. Anticipated reductions to UNC's state appropriations could reach 15 percent for fiscal year 2011-12, coming on top of nearly 10 percent in permanent cuts absorbed by the School of Nursing over the last two years.

The School of Nursing graduates approximately 200 new nurses each year.

Vote for Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill has been designated a Distinctive Destination by the National Trust for Historic Preservation along with 11 other towns or cities nationwide.

Between now and March 15, each of those 12 cities is competing for the title of Fan Favorite. The title is decided by an online vote, and Chapel Hill is encouraging local residents to vote daily and encourage their friends and families to do the same.

Chapel Hill was recognized for its natural beauty, historical significance, bustling nightlife, mouth-watering restaurants, unique shopping opportunities and, of course, its reputation as a basketball holy land.

Cast your vote at [preservationnation.org/ddd](http://preservationnation.org/ddd)

A heart and a hand

Friday night, A Helping Hand visited Charles House Eldercare Center – which provides care for older adults with mild to moderate impairments, many with various levels of dementia – for a volunteer serenade and Valentine delivery. A Helping Hand, founded in 1995, offers support services to older adults and younger people who have a temporary or ongoing need due to an accident, illness, injury or disability.

PHOTOS BY  
ALICIA STEMPER



Carrboro High School students help Habitat

BY MEGAN WALKER  
*Courtesy of the Carrboro Commons*

What can get high school students up and out of the house before 8:15 a.m. on a Saturday? For some Carrboro High School students, the answer is building a Habitat for Humanity house.

On Jan. 29, students Hana Haidar, Sofia Blanco and Lilly Yuan, along with their Habitat club advisor Matt Cooper, put in sub-flooring on the Aye family's future home. The house will be at 209 Lizzie Lane in the Phoenix Place neighborhood of Chapel Hill.

"I joined the club when I was a freshman," club co-president Haidar said. "I wanted to feel like I was actually doing something even though I was just 15. I just love building."

Haidar said the Carrboro High School club is a building partner with Kenan-Flagler Business School on the university's Build a Block campaign to build 10 houses in 10 months. The club is also partnering with Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill high schools to fund a tri-high school Habitat house.

"Having students help spreads awareness of the issues," said Jaycee Greenblatt, development coordinator for Habitat youth programs. "It's exciting to have them onsite to work with the families and see how communities are coming together as a group to help change substandard housing in Chapel Hill. It is so expensive to live in the area. We want to make the housing situation more affordable for families."

When the home that the students worked on is completed later this year, it will go to Zaw Aye, a refugee from Myanmar (formerly Burma) and his family. Aye said he was excited to be able to have a home for his family, who lives in an apartment.



(L to R) Hana Haidar, Lilly Yuan, Sofia Blanco, Matt Cooper and Jaycee Greenblatt pose for a picture on the steps of the Habitat house they helped construct on Jan. 29 in Chapel Hill. They put in the sub-flooring on the Aye family's future home. Haidar, Yuan and Blanco are students in the Habitat club at Carrboro High School. Cooper is their faculty adviser.

PHOTO BY MEGAN WALKER

The Ayes have put in more than 136 sweat-equity hours toward their new home. Once they have earned 325 hours and their home is complete, they will be homeowners with a zero-interest mortgage of \$72,500.

Greenblatt said Habitat will probably continue working in Phoenix Place for the next few years. The neighborhood will eventually have 50 green-certified homes. Sixteen have been completed so far and seven are being built this spring. The neighborhood also has a park and a community garden.

"It started off as something just to put on my college applications, but I really enjoy it now and think it's a great cause," said club secretary Yuan. "People at our school live in Habitat houses. I really like Habitat, and just want to stay involved forever."

Club members, who come to build several times a semester, have held a bake sale and a Halloween dance this school year to raise money for the high school house fund.

"Members of the community can help by supporting the high schools and their fundraising activities," Greenblatt said. The schools plan to hold a concert on Feb. 26 that will raise money for the tri-high school fund. Carrboro High School will have an improv group, a step team and possibly a jazz group at the concert, which will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at East Chapel Hill High School.

Greenblatt said community members could also help by donating directly to Habitat or coming out to volunteer on the build sites.

"Everyone has something to give back, and building has always been my passion," said Cooper. "It has been my way of giving back to the community."

Megan Walker 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.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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COUNTY FROM PAGE 1

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Averett said address issues cause a number of problems, the most serious of which is a delayed response from emergency services. Non-conforming addresses can also cause issues with prop-

erty tax assessments, and assessments for waste reduction, reuse and recycling (3R) fees. Other potential problems include inefficient mail and package deliveries and difficulties identifying proper voter precincts.

"There's nothing more frustrating for a fire department member than trying to find a home at three in the morning that has a fire that's not obvious or somebody that's had an accident or heart attack," Commissioner Earl McKee said. "I would urge that we move forward with this as fast as possible."

Clifton said that the necessary address changes will require people to take a number of steps, including changing their mailing addresses.

"It's going to have an impact, and you're going to hear from people," he added. "That's probably the biggest hurdle that you're going to

have to overcome."

Commissioners said that despite the likely resistance, they wanted to move forward with the ordinance.

"I can assure you that a lot of people that have objected to changing their addresses would look at it entirely differently at three in the morning if they were waiting on an ambulance that could not find them," McKee said.

Commissioner Alice Gordon agreed.

"I think it's very important for emergency services of all kinds that we move forward with this," she said.

Averett said he hopes to present a draft ordinance to the board in June, and hold public hearings in the late summer or fall. He added that if the ordinance is approved in the fall, enforcement would begin in March 2012.

Orange County Human Relations Commission

What we do . . .

The Orange County Human Relations Commission (HRC) provides assistance to people who file a complaint when they think or feel that their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, veteran status, age, or disability (or their association with members of any of these groups) caused them to receive differential treatment in their search for housing. The HRC also provides assistance with public accommodations issues.

Call 919 245-2487 with questions or to file a complaint.



ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
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