



**FRIDAY**  
0% Chance of Precip  
45/23 °F




**SATURDAY**  
0% Chance of Precip  
45/27 °F



**SUNDAY**  
10% Chance of Precip  
45/25 °F

# C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

**MLK Day events**  
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A ring-billed gull trying to perch on cedar branches is fun to watch. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

## FLORA BY KEN MOORE

### Feasting on Ocracoke

I am still relishing attending the Sixth Annual Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association oyster roast, shrimp boil and fish stew fundraiser on the eve of New Year's Eve.

The tradition of observing the year's changeover on Ocracoke Island began 13 years ago for Kathy Buck and me at the invitation of Carrborites David and Terri Swanson, who established their own tradition decades before. This particular year was special in that we were joined by other Carrborites Giles Blunden, Ginger Blakely and Muskie and Vikki Cates.

Hundreds of folks from as far away as Washington, D.C., helped celebrate this group of local fishermen, who, with broad citizen support, succeeded in rescuing the island's waterfront seafood market and making it a viable base of locally harvested seafood for citizens across the state. (Visit [ocracokewatermen.org](http://ocracokewatermen.org) for more information.)

Also feasting on the island during our visit were hundreds of gulls, mostly ring-billed, participating in a cedar-berry feeding-frenzy for days on end.

Try to imagine a gull perching on a lax cedar branch. Those gulls were actually mostly relying on their wings as they attempted to perch on the coastal red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana var. silicicola*, to pick off ripe berries.

The predominate tree cover of the Outer Banks is the coastal red cedar, close kin to the common red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, of the mainland. (See "A tale of two cedars" in the Flora archives). For the past 13 years we've enjoyed the beauty of the salt-sprayed, wind-sculptured cedars, of which the female specimens are laden with clusters of

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## Council tables independent Yates review

BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

**CHAPEL HILL** – Following a protest by some 40 residents against the findings of Town Manager Roger Stancil's report on the incidents surrounding the Nov. 13 raid of the former Yates Motor Co building, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted not to consider a measure proposing an independent review of the events, instead calling for a review by the town's appointed Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC).

Former U.S. Senate candidate

and investment banker Jim Neal petitioned the council in November to call for the appointment of an independent review commission to research and report on the circumstances leading up to the decision by police and town officials to deploy a Special Emergency Response Team in response to the occupation of the Yates building.

However, council members – who voted 5-4 not to consider a resolution supporting an independent review and 8-1 to call for a review by the CPAC – said they felt the review by the CPAC, which was recommended

by Stancil, would be sufficient. Council members Laurin Easthom, Ed Harrison, Lee Storrow and Jim Ward voted to consider the independent review, with Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt and members Donna Bell, Matt Czajkowski, Gene Pease and Penny Rich voting against consideration.

"I don't see the difference between the current standing committee that's already been organized [and the suggested commission]. ... To rev up a second one in parallel, I don't see the need for it," Pease said.

Easthom cast the lone dissenting vote against the CPAC review, say-

ing she could not "support that effort unless there is a parallel independent review."

Ward questioned the police's use of assault rifles in the incident. "You just cannot take that risk," he said, "and for that reason I do support an independent look into this."

However, both Ward and Harrison said they could not support Neal's proposal, which included Neal in charge of appointing the commission, since Neal had already said he believes the police acted improperly.

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Luis de la Rosa, Patty Ayers and Lila Little (back right with tent stakes) clean up during the disassembly of Occupy Chapel Hill at Peace and Justice Plaza. PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPER

## OCCUPY MOVES ON

BY ROSE LAUDICINA  
Staff Writer

**CHAPEL HILL** – The tents have all come down, the signs have been packed up and Peace and Justice Plaza has been returned to normal, as Occupy Chapel Hill has decided to disassemble its occupation.

After spending almost four months in tents occupying the cramped brick courtyard in front of the post office on Franklin Street, the group, which identifies itself as the 99 percent, decided to vacate the plaza on Tuesday in order to move into a new phase of the Occupy movement.

"Sadly, we are collapsing our encampment, but that does not mean we are going away," movement member Amanda Ashley said during a press conference on Tuesday.

The occupiers are calling this



Jeremy Gilchrist assists Gal Schkolvik from Occupy Chapel Hill as she takes down one of the tents. Gilchrist was one of several members of Occupy Raleigh who came over to show support. PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPER

next phase Occupy 2.0, in which they will be hosting events all over town to make sure their message reaches a variety of populations.

Plans have already been made for this new phase, including participation in Occupy the Courts on

Jan. 29, assisting with a foreclosure prevention conference on Jan. 21 at University United Methodist Church and something called no-madic occupation.

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## Northside property regulations approved

BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

**CHAPEL HILL** – In a move that could shift the changing face of the Northside and Pine Knolls neighborhoods, the Chapel Hill Town Council on Monday voted unanimously to approve regulations intended to limit investor-owned properties in the Neighborhood Conservation Districts.

Following the vote, the council chambers erupted into loud applause, with many audience members emotionally embracing one another and thanking the council.

"We cannot underestimate the importance of people who value the fabric of a community more than they value the profit that they can make off a home," said Hudson Vaughan, associate director at the Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History.

Neighborhood residents have expressed concerns that the neighborhoods are losing their history as developers come in and modify single-family homes for student housing. Residents have cited parking issues, loud parties and garbage in the neighborhood as the student population has increased.

In June, the council voted to impose a six-month moratorium on residential development in the neighborhoods. The moratorium, which will expire later this month, applies to residential developments within the borders of the Northside and Pine Knolls Neighborhood Conservation Districts and properties located on the north side of Rosemary Street, South Graham Street, Merritt Mill Road and Pritchard Avenue Extension.

During the moratorium, town planning staff developed a community plan for the neighborhoods, including a number of zoning changes. Approved zoning changes include reducing the maximum height of a second building on a property from 35 to 26 feet; reducing the maximum square footage for single-family dwellings to 1,750 square feet, down from 2,000 square feet; reducing the maximum floor-area ratio; and setting a maximum of four vehicles per property.

A number of developers said in previous meetings that they opposed the four-vehicle limit. The council considered raising the limit to eight for duplexes, but ended up maintaining the four-car limit, with a possible variance of up to six for duplexes and triplexes.

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## Accessibility a top priority for Carrboro library

BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

**CARRBORO** – Taking another small step toward a southwest library for Carrboro, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday discussed criteria they'd like to consider in siting a library in town, noting accessibility via public transit, walkability and bikeability as top priorities.

The board decided that a smaller group of board members would meet to delve into specific criteria to present back to the Orange County Board of Commissioners. The board of aldermen met with commissioners last October to launch talks on siting a southwest Orange County library in

Carrboro.

A potential library site had previously been identified at 210 Hillsborough Road in downtown Carrboro, but county commissioners voted unanimously in August to terminate the purchase and sales agreement for the property, citing concerns with cost, outstanding title issues and a less-than-inclusive search process.

The new criteria, as outlined by the commissioners, stipulate that proposed library sites go through three phases of screening to ensure selection of the best possible site. Phase one considers visibility, long-term functionality and accessibility; phase two, centrality/direct benefits, site conditions/sustainability and reasonable

cost for acquisition and development; and phase three, critique of the site by stakeholders, lease vs. purchase and the possibility and benefit of partnerships.

Carrboro Planning Director Trish McGuire said the county estimates the space needed for the library at 18,000 to 22,000 square feet.

"The library, wherever it goes, ought to have excellent access to public transportation routes," Mayor Mark Chilton said, adding that the library should also be accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition, Chilton said, the library needs to be easily accessible by low-income families.

Board member Dan Coleman

said he would like for the library to be served by a public transit route that also serves downtown Carrboro, where transit routes intersect, so that it is accessible to a greater number of residents via bus.

Board member Jacquie Gist said accessibility for the elderly population should also be considered.

"We're all going to be elderly by the time the library's built," she joked.

Commissioners also asked the board to consider possible modifications to town zoning procedures to facilitate siting the library. However, board members said they wanted to ensure that, whatever zoning procedures

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