

# Council to address development concerns

By Chelsey Dulaney  
Staff Writer

For some Chapel Hill residents, development has been advancing too quickly.

To address this concern, Loryn Clark, town neighborhood and community services manager, said the planning department will respond to a March 28 petition from the Sustaining OurSelves Coalition at Monday's Chapel Hill Town Council meeting.

In the petition, the coalition asked the council to place a freeze on issuing building permits in the Northside and Pine Knolls neighborhoods, Clark said.

"They thought it would slow down some of the things they're seeing, like large student rental developments going up quickly," she said.

Alexander Stephens, associate director of the Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History, said the coalition submitted the petition after holding a series of community meetings on development.

"What we're seeing is a rapid shift where people are sometimes being pressured to sell their homes, which are being turned into houses rented to students," he said. "We're trying to slow things down so there's not as much of an

incentive for developers to purchase these homes so we can have more time to think about how we can ensure an affordable neighborhood in the future."

Clark said the department will also present information that assesses the effects of student housing on single-family housing in the Northside neighborhood.

The council will also hear a recommendation from Butch Kisiah, director of the Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department.

Kisiah said he will respond to a petition from council member Penny Rich asking to allow alcohol on the premises of the 523 E. Franklin St. property.

*"By trying to save money, I think in the long run we are going to cut more programs..."*

Jamie Rohe,  
coordinator of the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness

Since the Chapel Hill Museum closed, leaving the building vacant, it has been used for events like art exhibitions and meetings. "Being able to serve alcohol allows us to have greater flexibility in the kind of programming we have in the building," he said.

The Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness, a coalition of governments, UNC, community groups and businesses, will present its annual report to the council

at Monday's meeting. Jamie Rohe, coordinator of the partnership, said the program met many of its goals this year, which focus on employment, access to services, housing and community participation.

Housing for New Hope, one of the organizations in the partnership, provided housing for 16 county clients in 2010.

Carolina Health Net, a partnership between Piedmont Health

Services and the University that provides care for the uninsured, enrolled 18 homeless patients in Orange County last year.

Rohe said the partnership might face challenges in the upcoming year because of financial constraints that could lead to cuts in services like mental health care for the county's homeless population.

"It's being penny-wise and pound foolish," she said. "By trying to save money, I think in the long run we are going to cut more programs that are going to end up being more costly."

Contact the City Editor at [city@dailytarheel.com](mailto:city@dailytarheel.com).

# Chapel Hill High club fosters green energy

By Sofia Morales  
Staff Writer

For Kristen Powers, real change came with the installation of a light switch.

As president of the Green Tiger Campaign, an environmental club at Chapel Hill High School, Powers and 29 other students worked to inspire discussion on climate change using Facebook and recycling events.

The students' efforts placed them among the top five schools in the DoSomething.org Green Your School Challenge for the second year running.

"We had never really made a tangible, eco-friendly change to our school infrastructure," Powers said. "This is the first example that we had where we were able to know that we significantly reduced the energy use of our school."

But the motion-detecting light switches the club installed in the school's teacher's lounges were just the beginning.

Powers said her club plans to use a portion of the \$1,000 grant it received for winning the challenge to install motion-detecting light switches in five classrooms.

The remaining money will be split between the club's commu-

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Kristen Powers,  
President of the Green Tiger Campaign, an environmental club at Chapel Hill High School

nity garden, which provides free produce to low-income families, and activities the group is planning for the next school year, Powers said.

Melanie Stevenson, director of business development for DoSomething.org, said the club competed against students from over 2,500 schools nationwide, including 11 from North Carolina.

"The goal of the program is to empower young people to create change in the place where they spend most of their time, a place where they can work together with their friends and really have a big impact on important environmental issues," Stevenson said.

Winners were selected by a panel of judges including model and activist Olivia Munn, photographer Nigel Barker, members of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, representatives from TreeHugger and the Alliance for Climate Education.

Among other factors, the judges evaluated the participants on the percentage of people involved in the projects, the use of technology and the innovative qualities of

the projects. Powers said coming up with fresh ideas was one of the most difficult parts of the challenge.

"This year we made sure that every single day for Earth Week we had something really cool and relevant to climate change that would raise awareness and make a difference," she said.

The club created a recycling center for items that are harder to recycle, like batteries. It also constructed a 12-foot by 12-foot cube meant to represent 250 pounds of carbon dioxide — the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that could be avoided by recycling a household's weekly supply of newspapers, according to the Green Your School website.

Anna Li, who will be the club's president next year, said she thinks it is important to be environmentally friendly because the actions people take today affect everyone's future.

"In this club, you feel like you're actually doing something," she said.

Contact the City Editor at [city@dailytarheel.com](mailto:city@dailytarheel.com).



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Yuying Chen, Anna Li and Kristen Powers, members of the Green Tiger Campaign, decorated recycling bins in the Green Your School Challenge.

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