

News Briefs

Triangle Transit seeks opinions

Triangle Transit is seeking feedback on proposed changes to its Hillsborough to Chapel Hill bus route.

Route 420 is experiencing overcrowding during peak commute times and Triangle Transit is working with Chapel Hill Transit to add vehicles with more seating capacity to address the issue. Orange Public Transportation would still operate mid-day service.

Triangle Transit is also proposing changes to the route to provide service to Durham Technical Community College's new satellite campus in Orange County and to the new 125-space park-and-ride lot adjacent to the campus.

The Triangle SportsPlex park-and-ride lot and three stops on Hwy. 86 — the Home Depot at Hampton Pointe shopping center, Stanback Middle School and Millhouse Road — would no longer be served during peak commute times. The Durham Tech park-and-ride lot would be served all day.

Triangle Transit is exploring the feasibility of the changes and will accept feedback on the proposed changes until Friday. For a feedback form or more information, visit www.triangletransit.org/bus/planning/420. Feedback can also be submitted by calling 485-PLAN and leaving a message for the Triangle Transit service planner.

Women's Agenda Assembly

The Orange County Commission for Women will sponsor the 2008 Orange County Women's Agenda Assembly on Oct. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Southern Human Services on Homestead Road.

The assembly is titled "Women, Power and Change: Making a Difference Beyond the Election." Local women will gather to discuss issues that matter most to them and their families. Candidates for elected office and elected officials are invited to attend to listen to discussion and hear the priorities addressed by voters. Community organizations are also invited to share information to be displayed at the event.

Food will be served starting at 6 p.m. and experts from across the Triangle will begin speaking at 6:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided from Hillsborough. Registration is free. Pre-registration is suggested but not required. Community members interested in participating should contact Pam Reynolds at 960-3875 for more information or to request a registration form.

County board puts off Buckhorn vote

The Orange County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday postponed a decision on the special-use permit application for Buckhorn Village, with a possible decision regarding the application set for Oct. 7.

The proposed site of Buckhorn Village, a 1.1-million-square-foot mixed-use development, is located off Buckhorn Road near I-85/I-40 in the western part of Orange County. The Orange County Planning Board has recommended that the board deny the application.

The project is being developed by Buckhorn Road Associates, who submitted their plan for the development in December.

Noticias en breve

Prepárate Ferias

Prepárate Ferias de preparación para desastres naturales. Chapel Hill: el 23 a 25 de Septiembre, de 10a.m. a 4p.m. en el vestíbulo del NC Children's Hospital de UNC. Hillsborough: el sábado, el 20 de septiembre, 9a.m. a 2p.m., en las afueras del Wal-Mart. Premios, información gratuita. www.readyorange.com; 245-2462. ¿Quiere información pero no se puede ir a la feria? Para información en español acerca de preparación para desastres naturales, visite a www.listonc.org ó www.cruzrojaamericana.org

CenterFest

Un festival para celebrar los artes. Artes visuales, música, y bailes. Los ensayos incluyen bailes folklóricos y música jazz. Hay expuesto jurado de artes visuales y actividades para niños, como pintar. Información de organizaciones sin fines de lucro en Durham, unos con regalitos. El sábado, el 20 de septiembre, 10a.m. a 6p.m. Foster Street, frente al parque central de Durham. Entrada gratis, pero piden una colaboración de \$4 por persona, \$12 por familia, para ayudar pagar el costo del evento.

Comentarios, sugerencias y preguntas al betsy@carrborocitizen.com

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Lee M. Johnson Minton Minton Minton



Green Manley J. Johnson Maxwell

Suspects in the Bailey case were charged this week.

MURDER

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Also charged with being an accessory after the fact are Brian Minton's parents, Gregory Lee Minton, 41, and Mishele Slade Minton, 37, of Chapel Hill and Chris Manley, 23, of Carrboro. The Mintons own Minton's BP in Glen Lennox.

The break in the case appeared to come when one of the men charged — believed to be Matt Johnson but listed in warrants as "CSI," for confidential source of information — told his story to investigators after being kidnapped, beaten and threatened with death at a Pittsboro autobody shop.

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Jim Woodall said the case is complex, with multiple crime scenes and so many individuals involved. He said he and his staff could not recall a murder case in Orange County with so many people associated with it.

The investigation continues, Woodall said. "It literally changes minute to minute, hour to hour. It's still developing."

The next step, he said, is for investigators to assemble reports so that he and his staff can make an assessment about when the case can be taken to the grand jury. Woodall said normally he would wait until all the reports are completed, but that the case is so complicated he may not wait for the reports to be finished and may decide to take it to the grand jury within the next two to three weeks.

Woodall would not say whether investigators know why Bailey was killed.

The timeline of events, spelled out in multiple search warrants, indicates that a confidential informant told investigators that on July 29 Bailey was taken to a secluded, wooded area across a creek from Twisted Oak Drive. The informant said a hole had been dug and that Bailey "was ordered to stand in a depression in the ground which had been formed by an uprooted tree and was shot there." His body was then covered up, the informant told investigators.

Last Wednesday, the informant took investigators to the site

where SBI investigator P.A. Stevens observed "a depressed, excavated area near a stump which also contained three plastic bags." Upon opening the bags, police noticed "the distinct odor of decomposition" and that the bags contained a quantity of soil.

Warrants filed against Gregory Lee Minton say he assisted those charged with Bailey's kidnapping and murder in that he "instructed the principals that Muriatic Acid could be used to destroy evidence of the crime and that it could be obtained from Lowe's Home Improvement."

Charges against Mishele Minton state that she assisted by "driving [the principals] to Lowe's Home Improvement to obtain the Muriatic Acid."

Charges against Manley state that he "assisted the principals in agreeing to meet them in Chatham County and assist in digging the grave site there..."

The strangest twist in the case so far is the description in search warrants of Matt Johnson's alleged kidnapping and beating by Brian Minton, Jack Johnson II, Maxwell and Lee.

According to the warrants, Matt Johnson was allegedly taken to a body shop in Pittsboro owned by Sarah Krombach's uncle, where he was choked with a chain, bound with duct tape and beaten with a metal pipe. Brian Minton also allegedly threatened to kill him while holding a revolver to his head.

Matt Johnson allegedly was then taken back to Krombach's home on Bristol Drive in Chapel Hill, where he was left upstairs unbound. The next morning, he used a black Sharpie marker to write a note that he was being held against his will on a cue ball and threw it out the window.

The warrants then state that Matt Johnson was taken to his mother's house to obtain "collateral," including a Playstation, some clothes and some personal papers. He was then taken to an office building to meet his mother and obtain money. The warrant says Matt Johnson fled to nearby Foxcroft Apartments to call his mother to come pick him up. She then drove him to the Chapel Hill police station.

TRANSFER

FROM PAGE 1

significance and those protected for environmental reasons. Technical criteria — including such considerations as traffic compatibility, room to expand and access to utilities — were next applied, narrowing the list to the 10 sites that now remain for consideration. Those 10 have been ranked by Olver, with a weighting factor applied to each individual criterion.

During the public-comments session Tuesday night, residents of several communities adjacent to potential sites voiced their opposition. Community members from the vicinity of the two sites at the top of the list, both located near the intersection of I-40 and Old N.C. Hwy. 86, said that the transfer station would curtail Hillsborough's economic development and diminish quality of life in the adjacent neighborhoods. Residents of one proposed site spoke of families and businesses being displaced.

But opponents of siting the station on Eubanks Road were the decided majority. And while Eubanks wasn't immediately removed from consideration, as many suggested it should be, the commissioners hinted that once the community criteria are applied Eubanks may cease to be considered a viable site — with commission Chair Barry Jacobs saying that the ranking of sites would likely "change significantly."

Jacobs drew a short chuckle from some in the audience when he said that the third- or fourth-ranked sites, "just as an example," might easily fall to ninth or tenth.

"Just as an example," Commissioner Moses Carey added.

Last spring, the board of commissioners voted to site the transfer station on Eubanks Road, then in November announced they were reopening the search.

Neloa Jones, a resident of the Rogers-Eubanks community and a member of the Coalition to End Environmental Racism, asked why it was that community criteria were only

now being applied.

The somewhat sterile-sounding term "community-specific criteria" includes environmental-justice concerns as well as consideration of the number of residents affected; proximity to schools, churches and recreation sites; and more.

Jones pointed out that the EPA document titled "Waste Transfer Stations: A Manual for Decision-Making" states that once unsuitable sites are eliminated by applying exclusionary criteria, both the technical and community criteria should be applied to "all remaining options." Only then should the list of potential sites be ranked and narrowed.

Olver Inc. will return on Oct. 21 with community criteria rankings. Those criteria will be listed alongside the technical criteria rankings. The commissioners will then further narrow the list. Meetings soliciting public input will then be held in the communities that remain on that list.

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