

TOWING
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set caps at \$125 for towing vehicles from private lots, \$50 to release vehicles to owners after hook-up but before towing and \$20 per day for storage after the first 24 hours.

Town staff had recommended a \$100 town-wide limit, but council members said they felt that should be increased, since the \$100 limit for downtown was set four years ago.

In 2011, 673 cars were towed from non-residential private property in downtown Chapel Hill, up from 550 in 2010, including 120 from Panera; 89 from Warehouse Apartments; 87 from McDonald's; 85 from the lot at 306 W. Franklin, between Vespa and Noodles & Co.; and 74 from the

lot at the corner of Henderson and Rosemary streets.

Tom Stark, an attorney representing George's Towing, which opposes the changes, said his client had installed video surveillance not as a predatory practice but to document walk-off towing at lots his drivers tow from, including the 306 W. Franklin lot.

"In every instance that you tow someone's car, you have an unhappy person there, and what they say about what happened is rarely accurate, which is part of the beauty of doing the videotaping," he said, adding that in most cases cars are towed 10 to 30 minutes after the driver walks off.

"[Tow truck drivers] try to be lenient in the policy, but the purpose of the policy is to keep people from tying up lots," Stark said.

CVS
FROM PAGE 1

Center St. because of vandalism.

On Feb. 4, a group of masked protesters identifying themselves as "Carrboro Commune" occupied the 201 North Greensboro building, handing out fliers stating that the occupation was "not a temporary protest, but a permanent occupation intended to establish a social center in the heart of Carrboro, instead of the CVS that would have been here."

The demonstration ended relatively peacefully after several hours, when police and Mayor Mark Chilton asked protesters to leave or face arrest and the group left the building. The group has promised to return and has announced plans to conduct "guer-

rilla gardening" at the site on March 17, in which the property will be turned into a community garden.

The building was sold by Weaver Street Market to Revco, a subsidiary of CVS Caremark, in 2010. CVS' plans to develop the property have drawn fire from nearby residents, who say the development wouldn't fit into the proposed space and would increase traffic on an already burdened area.

At last week's meeting, some residents expressed frustration at the occupation and the subsequent decision by CVS to put a fence around the property, as well as the direction of the debate, which has often focused on simply not having a CVS on the corner, rather than the design of the project.

"Go fight the zoning issue and come to a zoning public hearing and do it there," said Jackie Tanner, who said she also opposes CVS' proposal. "I am getting tired of sitting here and wasting my time and listening to people rail against corporate America."

Residents also debated whether the design of the project, which developers say they modeled after Carr Mill Mall, should be more modern.

"[The proposed design] blends in the mill town," said Celia Pierce.

"I like the idea and appreciate the fact that you all are trying to keep us looking the way that we have looked," she said.

James Carnahan disagreed, saying he would like to see a more creative design.

"This is a key intersection at

the very heart of town and what we find at these kinds of intersections in communities that have been here for a long time is really important architecture," he said. "I see you trying to copy Carr Mill, and I wouldn't want you to do that."

Polzella said CVS officials have not found a tenant for the second-floor space of the proposed project, but that they had been in discussions with the county about using that space for its southwest library branch. However, she said, county officials have said the space isn't compatible with the vision the county has for a library, which would need more square footage and first-floor space.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen is tentatively scheduled to hold a public hearing on the project on March 27.

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photo by Gretchen Mathison in front of the Carrboro PTA Thrift Shop

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FLOWERS: paperwhites, tulips, hyacinths

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