



**Friday**  
Mostly Cloudy  
49/30



**Saturday**  
20% Chance of Rain  
40/15



**Sunday**  
Partly Cloudy  
33/14

# C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Inside  
Massive retail development planned near Mebane



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE  
Flat corky Winged Elm branch

## Experience a winter walk in the woods

### FLORA

By Ken Moore

I relish the winter woods; there is much to see, many subtleties of interest and beauty that are masked in the summer by dense foliage. The varied terrain of bare trees and the deafening silence of the winter woods are reasons enough to bundle up and become part of that scene. I find it very warming to simply snuggle in at the base of a big tree and linger long enough to hear wind and critter sounds interrupt the silence.

Having binoculars at hand is a great aid, not just for bird viewing but for bringing into focus the movements on the distant forest floor and observing identifying characteristics of tree branches high above. A little quiet time in any of our local forests will most likely reward you with the sounds and sights of woodpeckers, nuthatches and Brown Creepers moving high and low along the tree trunks.

If the birds are scarce, you can enjoy looking more attentively at the trees. Two of my favorite winter trees are the Winged Elm, *Ulmus alata*, and the sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Most folks easily identify the sweetgum in the winter if they see it ornamented with hundreds of those half-dollar-size spiked balls hanging from the tree branches. Many folks frown on sweetgums in their own landscape because those spiked seed balls litter their drives and lawns. However, those balls, aggregates of seed capsules, provide a nutritious food source attracting at least a dozen bird species, particularly the little chickadees.

Another identifying characteristic of the sweetgum is the irregular corky growth occurring along all sides of the branches. In contrast, the other corky-branched tree, the Winged Elm, generally has the corky growth in a flat plain along only two sides of the branch. The branches of some of these two trees are so heavily laden with

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## WINTER STORM WATCH

By the time this copy of *The Citizen* hits the streets on Thursday morning, residents will know full well the initial impact of a predicted winter storm — what forecasters said at press time should be the area’s first serious bout with winter weather.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather advisory for much of the northern and western Piedmont, effective 4 a.m. to noon Thursday. Winter weather conditions, including mixed light snow and sleet during the early morning hours and freezing rain at daybreak, are expected. Precipitation is predicted to turn to rain by noon.

We invite you to tune to WCHL-1360 for details of closings. In addition, here are web resources and phone numbers for information about schools, the University, bus services and RDU.

**Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools**  
(919) 967-8211 [www.chccs.k12.nc.us](http://www.chccs.k12.nc.us)

**Orange County Schools - (919) 732-8126**  
[www.orange.k12.nc.us](http://www.orange.k12.nc.us)

**Chatham County Schools - (919) 542-3626**  
[www.chatham.k12.nc.us](http://www.chatham.k12.nc.us)

**UNC-Chapel Hill**  
(919) 843-1234 [www.unc.edu](http://www.unc.edu)

**Chapel Hill Transit - (919) 969-4933**  
[www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.asp?NID=72](http://www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.asp?NID=72)

**Triangle Transit Authority - (919) 485-7433**  
[www.gotriangle.org/News/severeWeather.html](http://www.gotriangle.org/News/severeWeather.html)

**Raleigh-Durham International Airport**  
(919) 840-2123 [www.rdu.com](http://www.rdu.com)

Contact your airline for flight delays and cancellations.

## Market plan delayed

By Susan Dickinson  
Staff Writer

The Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday postponed a decision regarding who would administer the farmers’ market at the county’s new Public Market House, set to open in Hillsborough in March. Commissioners expressed aversion at being forced to choose between

two groups, and prior to public comment Chair Barry Jacobs asked individuals to refrain from name-calling and personal attacks.

In August, two opposing groups appealed to the board for control of the Hillsborough Farmers’ Market. Jeffry Goodrum, speaking on behalf of 13

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PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

David Peacock and Rebecca Cerece, one of the key organizers, monitor the debate, which was streamed live on the WCOM web site.

## Rousing debate draws large audience

*Impeachment of Bush, Cheney on the table at the Century Center*

By Kirk Ross  
Staff Writer

The Century Center, about as filled as it ever gets, was the scene Tuesday night for an actual debate about the impeachment of the vice president and president of the United States.

From the outset, journalist Michael Tomasky (call him

progressive or liberal) knew he faced a potentially unfriendly audience. In his opening statement, he said he was counting on the crowd’s Southern manners, for his role for the evening was to assert that impeaching Dick Cheney and George Bush is a disastrous idea.

Tomasky’s argument — peppered with acknowledgements that it’s likely impeachable of-

fenses are many — was that a crucial opportunity to swing a revolted populace to the left would be spoiled by the act of impeachment. Too many would see it as a partisan act, and true progressive change in areas like health care, wages and global-warming policy would be threatened.

True to his prediction, the cheers for Tomasky, who writes

for the *Guardian* newspaper, were not nearly so resounding as those for Republican legal scholar and former congressional counsel Bruce Fein, who argued that it was the duty of those elected to Congress to stand for what is right for the country and not just one’s party.

SEE **DEBATE**, PAGE 10

## Board reviews Astro turf plan at Smith fields

By Kirk Ross  
Staff Writer

In their first meeting back after a winter break, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen reviewed plans by the county to replace worn turf at the two Smith Middle School soccer fields with Astro turf.

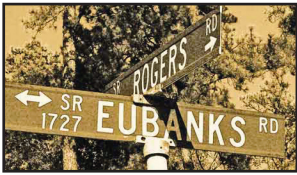
The project is expected to cost between \$1.6 and \$1.75 million. The new surface would allow the fields to be used more often and not require them to be taken out of action to allow restoration to damaged turf.

The project, initiated by Orange County, has drawn the interest of local soccer organizations that have agreed to help fund part of the effort, including Triangle United Soccer Association, Triangle Futbol Club and CHAC Soccer.

In exchange, county officials have requested that Carrboro consider waiving rental fees normally paid by the clubs as well as any permitting and engineering fees for the upgrade to the field.

While members of the board of aldermen noted that the fee waiver would not be unduly costly, there was some concern about the maintenance and use of the field.

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**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This story is the final installment in an eight-part series that has examined issues related to environmental justice and to the fight of the Rogers and Eubanks roads community to be relieved of what they allege to be an undue burden. To read the stories in this series and for other resources, go to [www.carrborocitizen.com/main/rogers-road](http://www.carrborocitizen.com/main/rogers-road)

## Garbage is a communal responsibility

By Taylor Sisk  
Staff Writer

“I believe the closer garbage is disposed of to where it’s produced, the more responsible you are for it,” says Carrboro Board of Alderman Jacquie Gist. “Out of sight, out of mind’ is not a good thing.”

Out of sight is where our garbage would go if the Orange County Board of Commissioners proceeds with its decision to place a solid-waste transfer station in the county. The commission has contracted with a private firm to conduct a search for a transfer station site, from

which our waste would be sent out of county – destination as yet unknown.

As Orange County solid waste management director Gayle Wilson told *The Citizen* in an earlier installment of this series, given that a previous board of commissioners adopted a resolution stating that there would not be another municipal waste facility located in Orange County, “We have not discussed, nor to my knowledge do we intend to, the location of a new municipal solid-waste landfill in the county.”

So, given these circumstances, is Gist willing to say, “Stop the transfer station search; our gar-

bage must stay right here”? And if so, where is “here”?

Gist says that to simply say we should have no transfer station would be, at this juncture, “a really feel-good answer to give.” But: “It would not be a categorically responsible answer for me to give.” Not, that is, without suggesting what, alternatively, can be done in the short term.

And there she’s stumped.

**Our own business.**

Many local elected officials disagree with the decision made by a previous county commission to place a solid-waste transfer station in Orange County.

“I do believe that the decision to ship garbage out of county was a mistake,” County Commissioner Mike Nelson wrote in an email response to *The Citizen*. “Since it takes 10 to 15 years to site a new landfill, and since our current landfill is set to fill up completely in three years, we have no choice right now but to build a transfer station and ship our garbage out.

“I wish past decisions had been made differently.”

Newly elected Carrboro Board of Alderman Lydia Lavelle agrees.

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## HOW TO REACH US

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**Classifieds & Real Estate**  
[carrborocitizen.com/classifieds](http://carrborocitizen.com/classifieds)  
Place your ad online or call 919-942-2100, 8:30 - 3:00 M-F. Classified deadline is midnight Tuesday.

## INSIDE

*Dreaming of good defense and a stellar season for the Heels*

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- [carrborocitizen.com/foodandfarm](http://carrborocitizen.com/foodandfarm)
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## Conserving water is good to the last drop

### RECENTLY...

By Valerie Schwartz

Good news arrived in the mail last week with the OWASA bill: The goal of using only 1,000 gallons of water in my two-person household was reached. With the extra cooking and out-of-state guests in December, I’d prepared myself for it to remain at 2,000 gallons. This assuages my guilt over forcing a guest away from the sink when she stood there letting the water run down the drain while washing dishes.

“Step away from the sink,” I calmly said, while reaching over her shoulder and abruptly shutting off the water. She had already been warned about the drought and my obsession with not wasting water. That was the last time she tried that.

Last week, before Wednesday’s anticipated rain that didn’t come, I emptied one of

my two rain barrels so there would be room for more collecting and so plants could get a head start. While repeatedly dipping my watering can into the barrel and casting it across the beds, I thought of the rain barrel-making session that OWASA provided in December, a workshop so popular that Paula Thomas said two more had been scheduled; both, planned for Jan. 30, are booked — with a waiting list of 52.

Not only do the recycled pickle barrels, provided by the county’s Mark Ray, have screened lids but also spigots at the bottom for attaching a hose to and watering from, and an additional hole (with cap) near the top for directing flow into another collection source once the barrel is filled (which happens quickly when situated in the right spot under a roof on a rainy day). Every gardener needs at least one.

These ponderings bring to mind the things we’ve learned during this latest drought.

“‘Step away from the sink,’ I calmly said, while reaching over her shoulder and abruptly shutting off the water. She had already been warned about the drought and my obsession with not wasting water.”

- We’ve learned it’s okay to:
- Wear clothes repeatedly (unless smelly or obviously dirty);
  - Skip one rinse cycle on top-loading washing machines (set a timer to catch it);
  - Toss yesterday’s leftover dog water onto a flowerbed (on warm days only);
  - Wash hair once a week (think of the products we save);

SEE **RECENTLY**, PAGE 9