

Briefs

CVS neighborhood meeting

Neighbors of 201 N. Greensboro St. are invited to a meeting on Feb. 8 from 7-9 p.m. at Carrboro Town Hall to discuss the proposed CVS development project.

This will be the last neighborhood meeting before a public hearing. Attendees will be updated by developers on plans for the second floor and will hear answers to questions and concerns addressed at the previous meeting in December.

To ensure all questions will be answered at the meeting, email any questions you might have to Chris Bostic at chris.bostic@kimley-horn.com.

Faison running for governor

Rep. Bill Faison has announced his bid as a candidate seeking the Democratic nomination for governor of North Carolina.

Gov. Bev Perdue shocked lawmakers around the state when she announced on Jan. 26 that she would not be seeking reelection and instead would be focusing her remaining time in office fighting for education in North Carolina.

Faison, who represents Northern Orange and Caswell counties, was first elected to the Legislature in 2005 and has served on a variety of committees, including acting as chair of the House Study Committee on Rural Highspeed Internet Access and chair of the House Democrats’ Business Caucus.

Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton has also announced his bid for governor, meaning there will be a Democratic gubernatorial primary in May. Former Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory has announced that he will seek the Republican nomination.

Chamber adds dental care

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce and Piedmont Health Services have announced a pilot program to expand the chamber’s health-care program to include dental care.

The expanded program will first provide care to 25 patients from three chamber members including Balloons & Tunes and Southern Rail, with the third member business yet to be identified.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce was the first in North Carolina to offer its members access to affordable health care. The program, called the Chamber’s Business Health Services program, was started in 2008 and has 150 participants.

Tax listing deadline extended

Due to a delay in mailing notifications, the deadline for property tax listing in Orange County has been extended.

Typically the tax listings are due on the last day of January, but the Orange County Board of Commissioners voted to extend the deadline until Feb. 29.

Weaver Street bus routes resume

The Chapel Hill Transit CW bus has resumed its regular route on Weaver Street due to the completion of major construction on the street.

Leaders confirm 2013 landfill closure

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

As members of the Orange County Board of Commissioners have made clear their intent to close the county’s landfill in 2013, questions linger over what the county and its municipalities are going to do with their trash.

After an Assembly of Governments meeting last week, where board and council members from each municipality gave input on possible solutions they are investigating, two things were made clear: They believe the landfill should close in 2013, and they want to work on trying to find a solution together.

“Based on what I hear from several members of the county commission and the Chapel Hill Town Council, it seems like there are a lot of elected officials who feel very strongly that we should close the landfill in 2013,” Carrboro Mayor Mark Chilton said at the meeting.

“I think that is a decision I could live with if in the meantime we have selected a site for some other facility for the long term.”

Chilton had recently proposed keeping the landfill open until 2015 to allow the county time to site a solid-waste transfer station and avoid trucking garbage to Durham County’s transfer station.

The three towns and the county have about 17 months to come up with a solution for where to deposit solid waste.

The county commissioners have said trucking solid waste to the Durham facility is a temporary solution.

Since the Durham option would add only 12 miles to the town of Hillsborough’s collection and drop-off routes, Town Manager Eric Peterson said Hillsborough is amenable to the idea and ready to go ahead with it.

However, both Chapel Hill



The Orange County Landfill has been open on Eubanks Road since 1972. Orange County and town officials confirmed their intent to close the landfill in 2013 at a meeting last week. PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

and Carrboro voiced concern over the high cost of taking their trash to Durham, as it would cost the towns a combined estimated \$750,000 a year, as well as the discontent of having no control over where their trash goes from Durham.

“To close the landfill on Rogers Road just to send [garbage] somewhere else and create another Rogers Road just shows that we didn’t learn our lesson,” Chapel Hill Town Council member Penny Rich said.

Trash taken to Durham’s solid-waste transfer station is shipped to an out-of-county landfill.

Instead of committing to the commissioners’ suggestion, Chapel Hill is looking at hiring a consultant to evaluate the town’s entire waste operation and identify the most practical solution, while also considering technologies that would convert waste to energy.

Matt Efird, interim town manager for Carrboro, presented his town’s alternative to the Durham option at the meeting, including Chilton’s proposal that

the county look at the feasibility of a site at the northwest corner of I-40 and N.C. 86.

Both Carrboro and Chapel Hill officials expressed their frustration with the lack of long-term solutions suggested by the county.

“Clearly, we would like to close the site,” Chapel Hill Town Council member Gene Pease said, “but to pick a date without any plan made makes absolutely no sense to me. It is putting an incredible burden on us.”

Commissioners reminded the jurisdictions that they have repeatedly asked them for input on finding alternatives, but have been unsuccessful in getting responses.

Commissioner Valerie Foushee responded to complaints from elected officials about the financial burden closing the landfill will cause, noting the burden the landfill places on the Rogers Road community.

“None of us, I believe, are as frustrated as the people living in the Rogers Road community,” she said.

While officials of each ju-

risdiction agreed to look into Chilton’s proposal to site a waste transfer station in Orange County, Commissioner Earl McKee said he didn’t feel it was feasible and expects to hear a lot of resistance from the public.

McKee reminded the elected officials of the commissioners’ previous attempts at siting a transfer station in Orange County, which were met with a lot of public backlash.

“Why would we not expect full-throated opposition again?” McKee asked Chilton.

“I am not willing to go through a process only to be beaten back again,” he continued.

Also agreed upon at the meeting was the creation of a task force to determine the cost of extending sewer lines and building a community center for the Rogers Road community.

The task force will be made up of two representatives from each of the boards and two representatives from the Rogers Road Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA).

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NC Botanical Garden, 9 am - 1 pm

9 am - 11:30 am

SYMPOSIUM:
Learn about current water quality problems and actions needed to restore our urban streams.

9 am - 11:30 am

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:
Environmental educators provide a program for children of symposium participants.

11:30 am - noon

ANIMAL LIFE ALONG BOLIN CREEK:
Well-known local photographer and naturalist Mary Sonis takes us on a photo journey.

noon - 1 pm

COMMUNITY EXCHANGE:
Connect with organizations making a difference for water quality and the environment.

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Thanks to the NC BOTANICAL GARDEN -
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Valentine Gifts to make your Canine Bark for Joy!

Dog Silhouette Art
Saturday, February 4, 10am – 2pm

Stop in with your canine companion or a picture of your dog in profile, and have silhouette artist Zachary Murray create a beautiful and treasured piece of art. Event will take place inside University Mall near the A Southern Season Mall Entrance.*

Personalized Dog Treats
Saturday, February 4, 10am – 2pm

Fresh from our Canine Bakery! Michael, our baker, will personalize a treat for your four-legged friend. Also, check out our gourmet Dog Biscuits; Puppermutters, Scratchin’ Sunflower Munchies, and Mozzarella and Olive Oil Treats.

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