



FRIDAY
10% Chance of Precip
58/38 °F



SATURDAY
20% Chance of Precip
50/23 °F



SUNDAY
0% Chance of Precip
43/22 °F

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Dandelion leaves have sharp, tooth-like margins.
PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

The flower that doesn't stop

"Fields of dandelion are like huge cloud rafts floating on a sea of green. Lying back on this flowery bed can become intoxicating, the mind swooning with the fragrance. Dandelions conjure up images of spring, their fresh scents so alluring, drawing one to run barefoot across their faces until the feet are green and yellow striped. It is also the lone flower of sunny winter places, defiantly blooming next to patches of mid-winter snow, always reminding us, even in the coldest times, that there is hope for spring."

Those words of Tom Brown, Jr. (*Tom Brown's Field Guide: Edible and Medicinal Plants*) describe the lowly dandelion far more engagingly than can I.

While still pursuing "winter botany" I pause to note that early spring wildflowers – really winter annuals – like speedwells, henbits and chickweeds have been carpeting lawns and open spots all around town since the early days of January, way, way ahead of their normal appearances.

Most notably in flower is my friend the dandelion, *Taraxicum officinale*, the cause of grief for folks who prefer uniform green deserts of perfect lawns. It's regrettable that Ortho products has a commercial that describes the flowering dandelion as the cause of hay fever. That image terrorizes innocent viewers to eliminate those beasts in the lawn with easy-to-apply chemical herbicides.

In reality, dandelion flowers do not produce pollen light enough to waft its way into your nostrils to make you sniffle and sneeze. In fact, for centuries worldwide, the dandelion has been a source of useful herbal medications and

SEE **FLORA** PAGE 12



A group of protesters identifying themselves as "Carrboro Commune" occupied the building at 201 N. Greensboro St. on Saturday afternoon. The group left the building a few hours after the start of the demonstration, after police told them they would be arrested if they did not do so.
PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

Proposed CVS site occupied

Demonstration ends peacefully



Masked protesters establish a presence outside of 201 N. Greensboro St. shortly after the building was taken as part of what demonstrators called a permanent occupation intended to establish a social center in the heart of Carrboro.
PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPER

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Following the Saturday afternoon occupation of the building at 201 N. Greensboro St., members of a group identifying themselves as "Carrboro Commune" are planning another demonstration at the property, while elected officials, police and other community members reflect on the events, which ended relatively peacefully, with no arrests.

Following a march down West Weaver Street, a group of masked protesters occupied the building around 3 p.m. Saturday, 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."

SEE **OCCUPATION** PAGE 10



Masked occupiers pound out a rhythm that went on for much of the afternoon. The noise sparked conversation from neighbors about the negative impacts the occupation would have on their community, in contrast to the protesters' claims that their activities were in response to neighbors' concerns about a CVS drugstore proposed for the site.
PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPER

Carrboro names new town manager

CARRBORO – The Carrboro Board of Aldermen announced at their Tuesday night meeting that David Andrews has been appointed town manager. He replaces Matt Efrid, who has served as interim town manager since the retirement of Steve Stewart in July. Efrid will return to his previous role as assistant to the town manager.

Andrews has more than 20 years of local government experience, including serving as town manager, assistant town manager and finance director for two municipalities in Arizona. He

is presently assistant town manager/finance director for the town of Paradise Valley, Ariz.

Andrews holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Stephen F. Austin State University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Arizona. He is an active member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and holds distinction as an ICMA Credentialed Manager.

He and his wife, Salette, are par-

ents of three adult children.

"Carrboro is a vibrant community with dedicated Board members, citizens, and employees," Andrews said in a statement released on Wednesday. "I would like to thank the Mayor and Board for their confidence in me. It is an honor to serve Carrboro as the new Town Manager."

The search for a new town manager was a "long process, and we carefully deliberated," board of aldermen member Rande Haven-O'Donnell said. Fifteen phone interviews were

conducted, and three candidates were interviewed in person.

"While there were many outstanding candidates for this job, many people who were qualified for this job, we believe unanimously that the best choice for the future of town government on the staff side will be Mr. David Andrews," Mayor Mark Chilton said.

Andrews will start work no later than March 15. – *Staff Reports*

DOT to revisit Smith Level planning

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CARRBORO – Following several hours of discussion, representatives of the N.C. Department of Transportation on Tuesday said they would take another look at a hotly contested traffic pattern in the Smith Level Road project that would prevent left turns out of the Berry-



Jacquie Gist
prevent left turns out of the Berry-

hill neighborhood from Willow Oak Drive onto Smith Level Road.

NCDOT officials came before the Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday to present detailed plans regarding right-of-way and easement acquisitions that would be needed for the Smith Level Road improvement project, about which residents have expressed concern.

Berryhill residents reiterated their continuing frustration with plans to prevent a left turn out of their neighborhood, which NCDOT officials have said would not be safe.

SEE **SMITH LEVEL** PAGE 11

County prefers light rail to bus

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

While two members of the Orange County Board of Commissioners are still not convinced light rail is the best option for Orange County, the commissioners voted 5-2 to recommend light rail as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the county.

Orange County is the last member of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) to make a decision regarding the LPA, with all three other members supporting light rail.

Triangle Transit Authority senior transportation planner Patrick Mc-

Donough gave a presentation to the commissioners in which he reminded them that while in approving the LPA they were stating the type of technology, endpoints and alignment of service they preferred, there were still many ways to alter the ultimate plans.

"I am trying to communicate to you how much control you really do have within the plan and how it is funded," McDonough said.

Also included in their decision to pursue light rail that would start at UNC Hospitals and travel 17.4 miles to Alston Avenue, just

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INSIDE

School board decides against redistricting

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