



**FRIDAY**  
Clear  
74/47



**SATURDAY**  
Clear  
65/34



**SUNDAY**  
Clear  
61/38

# C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Uncommon puttyroot orchid has a very distinctive winter leaf. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

## FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Locate now  
for later viewing

Now is the best time of the year to locate two obscure native orchids that show their leaves in the winter. Of the two, cranefly orchid, *Tipularia discolor*, is the more common – and with a keen eye to the ground, you will spot it everywhere.

Its elusive close cousin, *Aplectrum hyemale*, puttyroot, is much less common, preferring a less acidic soil than is typical of most of our forests. You will have to keep a really keen eye focused to find the single leaf of puttyroot – and what a quiet thrill to finally spot one.

The leaves of these two orchids are busy now absorbing the winter sun and actively growing, manufacturing and storing essential nutrients and resources necessary for annual flowering and seed production. Though green now, these plants are not evergreen. They disappear in spring as the tree canopy shades the forest floor. They seem to be going into dormancy just when most plants are coming out of it, but they remain very active underground and send up a flowering stem in summer that is unnoticed by most woods walkers. The next winter season's leaves will begin appearing in September as the forest canopy is beginning to drop its leaves again.

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## Town passes on U Mall deal

BY KIRK ROSS  
Staff Writer

**CHAPEL HILL** — The exploration of moving the Chapel Hill Public Library from its Pritchard Park location to the spot now occupied by Dillard's at University Mall ended Monday night before the Chapel Hill Town Council even began debating the idea.

Both Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt and Town Manager Roger Stancil said in introducing the agenda item that the potential costs savings to the town did not outweigh the risk of moving a building with a public function into a private development. Stancil said University Mall representatives concurred with the decision.

In a letter sent to the town last week, Madison Marquette managing director Jay Lask said that projected savings to the town had dropped from the \$3 million to \$4 million range to \$1.5 million. Lask said that while he still believes a mall location has a number of advantages, it's understandable that the town would not want to shift its current plan so close to groundbreaking.

At the Valentine's Day session at Town Hall, the council heard from several residents, some wearing pink hearts to represent their love for the Pritchard Park location, who underscored their view that the town needs to keep the library where it is.

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## Board sets March hearing on library site

BY KIRK ROSS  
Staff Writer

**CARRBORO** — The Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday agreed to hold a public hearing on a request by Orange County to rezone a 2.69-acre parcel next to Carrboro Elementary School for use as a library site.

The site, located adjacent to the school's front parking lot and baseball field, has been under contract with the county since October 2010, after commissioners agreed in a closed-door session on an option to purchase the land for \$610,000. The purchase is contingent on gaining a rezoning, according to an application filed Feb. 4 by

the county with the Town of Carrboro.

The zoning change would be required before the county could apply for a permit to construct a new southwest branch library at the site, which has already drawn concern from its potential neighbors.

At their meeting at Town Hall, the board received a petition signed by 50 residents of the areas adjacent to the site expressing concerns about the impact of a new public building in the area and asking that they delay the public hearing.

Board member Jacquie Gist said she also thought the site was "problematic."

"Most of the people around the site are not in favor of it," she said.

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## In a drought, but not a panic



The mud flats of University Lake near the causeway on Jones Ferry Road

PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

BY KIRK ROSS  
Staff Writer

Driving across the short causeway on Jones Ferry Road that spans University Lake near Morgan Creek, you can easily read the decline of the waterline along the banks and view the muck rising above it.

The lake is down roughly four feet from full. Likewise at Cane Creek. The official water supply level for the Orange Water and Sewer Authority stood at 70.1 percent as of Wednesday morning.

Ed Holland, OWASA's planning engineer, said that although the lake looks low, the supply is nowhere near as low as it takes to trigger further conservation measures.

"It really depends on the time of year," Holland said. Right now, he said, the supply would have to drop to 35 percent to trigger tighter restrictions on water use. "If this were June, we'd have to be above 70 percent."

Orange County is part of a wide swath of North Carolina extending from Charlotte to the Virginia border that is in a severe drought, according to the state's drought-monitoring program.

OWASA's official rainfall totals for the past 12 months show just 35.48 inches of rain compared to the yearly average of 45.82.

Holland said the utility is watchful but not worried, mainly due to the conservation methods that have

been put into place since the 2007-08 drought. Customers upgrading to more-efficient fixtures and responding to a tiered rate structure and the university's efforts to use more recycled water have had a major impact in use, while a decline in new housing units has slowed growth in demand, he said.

But with the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center calling for drier than normal weather for the next three months, the mudflats off Jones Ferry Road are likely to stick around for a while.

"You have to remember that University Lake holds a lot less water than Cane Creek," Holland said. "That's a shallow part of the lake, so that's where you see it."

## County likely to change addresses

BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

The Orange County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Tuesday to take steps toward adopting an addressing ordinance that would require thousands of county residents to change their addresses to reflect a grid-based system.

The county began efforts to change rural addresses to a logical, grid-based system in 1987, but the changes were resisted by the public. County officials said residents were likely to continue to oppose the changes, but that an ordinance was necessary to ensure that homes could be located by emergency workers and other service people.

"There will be an issue with a lot of people not wanting to change their addresses," County Manager Frank Clifton said. "If you don't have an enforcement procedure, you're never going to have an addressing procedure that will make sure that people get the services they want when they need them."

According to Steve Averett, GIS manager with the county's technology department, Orange County has more than 2,000 addresses that are out of sequence, not addressed to the proper road, addressed to the wrong side of the road or that don't display house numbers correctly and appropriately.

SEE **COUNTY** PAGE 3

## Hearings concluded for fired Chapel Hill workers

BY TAYLOR SISK  
Staff Writer

**CHAPEL HILL** — According to the attorney for two Town of Chapel Hill Public Works Department employees fired for alleged insubordination and intimidating behavior, the town failed to follow its own grievance procedure, hastily terminating the men's employment due to their active role in a unionizing effort.

Clyde Clark, one of the two workers fired in October, appealed his firing to the town's Personnel Appeals

Committee last Wednesday night at the Chapel Hill Public Library in a hearing open to the public at Clark's request. Kerry Bigelow, fired at the same time as Clark and for the same alleged reasons, went before the committee on Feb. 3.

The men's attorney, Al McSurely, has argued that his clients were fired in retaliation for grievances they filed with management that alleged racial bias in job placements and promotions and unsafe working conditions. The town alleges that the men were fired for inappropriate behavior to-

ward supervisors and residents along their waste-collection route.

As was the case in Bigelow's hearing, the town's first witness spoke by telephone, identified only as "Ms. Johnson." She was joined Wednesday night, also by phone, by a "Ms. Jones." Both women said they had felt intimidated by Clark and Bigelow, but had asked only for a crew change, not that the men be fired.

"All of my complaints were based on problems we were having with our trash collection," Jones said.

The men's supervisor, Larry Stroud,

said that working with Clark and Bigelow was "a rocky road," and that he had written Clark up after receiving complaints of trash not being picked up along his route. Stroud said that he spoke to Clark about the complaints, but that Clark "acted like it didn't matter."

Public Works director Lance Norris said of complaints of the men's behavior, "When it rises to the level that you're intimidating citizens and yelling at a citizen ... that's when the line is crossed."

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## A do-it-yourself way

BY SUSAN DICKSON  
Staff Writer

There are few residents with roots as deep in this town as Frances Lloyd Shetley.

Though she grew up in Calvander, Shetley has lived on Hill-sborough Road in Carrboro for 50 years. Her family has been in the area since the mid-1700s, when Thomas Lloyd — of whom Carr Mill's original owner Thomas Lloyd is a descendant — purchased land near Calvander.

Shetley went to school in the same building where Town Hall is now located and attended first grade in the same room where, 60 years later, she served as a member of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen for eight years, taking a stand on

controversial town policies that hold strong nearly 20 years later.

How she came to sit on that board is indicative of Shetley's do-it-yourself way of approaching things.

In the 1970s, "I had something that I wanted to ask the town about," Shetley recalls. She went to speak with the town manager, who told her he was too busy to deal with her question.

"That should not happen," she said. So Shetley decided she would take matters into her own hands, becoming a part of the infrastructure of the town. Her first involvement in town government was as one of the founders of the Carrboro Appearance Commission.

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Frances Shetley sits on the lawn of Weaver Street Market on Monday afternoon. Shetley, who served on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen for eight years, is a descendant of Thomas Lloyd, one of the founders of Carrboro.

PHOTO BY ALLISON RUSSELL