

News Briefs

Family Life Project gets \$12.8 million

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute and UNC’s School of Education received a \$12.8-million grant to continue the Family Life Project, a study of the effects of rural life on child development. Researchers for the Family Life Project have monitored 1,292 children from three Eastern North Carolina counties and three Central Pennsylvania counties — regions of high child rural poverty.

The Family Life Project is the largest study of its kind to date, and researchers believe that the findings will have a significant impact on local and national policies involving rural child poverty.

The grant was awarded by the National Institutes of Health and will be used to fund the second phase of the project.

During the first phase of the project, which began in 2002, researchers monitored the development of these children from birth, and during the second 5-year phase researchers will observe the children as they enter school.

Volunteer of the year nominations

The Board of Aldermen annually recognizes the special contributions of one individual or group to the community and will present this award by the end of March. Winners will be recognized at the annual Advisory Boards Recognition Dinner.

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Carrboro Town Clerk Sarah Williamson at 918-7309 or swilliamson@townofcarrboro.org. Individuals may also submit nominations through the town’s online help desk at www.egovlink.com/carrboro. Nominations must be received by February 15.

Healthy Carolinians gets grant

Healthy Carolinians of Orange County and the Orange County Health Department have been awarded a \$30,000 grant by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust of Winston-Salem.

According to Healthy Carolinians of Orange County coordinator Bobbie Jo Munson, the funds will be used to enhance the organization’s partnership and to carry out activities to address the leading health concerns in the county.

Healthy Carolinians of Orange County was founded in 1966 to serve all county residents by partnering with agencies and citizens throughout the county to advocate, guide and assist in developing strategies to promote healthy lifestyles.

County manager earns credentials

Assistant County Manager Gwen Harvey recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA, a local government leadership and management organization.

To receive the designation, members must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, have earned a degree and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

Harvey has served as Orange County assistant manager since 2002. Prior to coming to Orange County, Harvey served as assistant manager in Chatham County, Ga., and the City of Gresham, Ore.

Animal control fees to increase

The Animal Control Division of Orange County Animal Services will increase several civil penalties and fees effective July 1.

The penalties and fees cover ordinance violations including failure to vaccinate or license pets, public nuisance and animal mistreatment. They are designed to encourage responsible pet ownership and improve the safety of the animals and the community as a whole.

The increases will only affect those pet owners who violate county animal ordinances and fail to come into compliance when notified. Fee increases include: failure to vaccinate against rabies, from \$100 to \$200; failure to license, from \$50 to \$200; mistreatment, from \$50 to \$200; and public nuisance violations, from \$25 to \$50.

Water Report - January 16, 2008	
LAKE LEVELS	
University Lake	6 feet, 9 in. below full
Cane Creek	14 ft., 7 in. below full
Total Availability Supply	41.7% of capacity
PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH	
Jones Ferry Rd. Treatment Plant	0.11 in.
Cane Creek Reservoir	0.31 in.
Normal rainfall for Jan.	4.24"
CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND	
7-Day Average	7.287 million gallons
30-Day Average	6.612 million gallons
Estimated days of water remaining	224 (based on average demand, assuming no further rainfall.
Source: OWASA	

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Stew Beef \$2.99/lb EXTRA LEAN	Chorizo Sausage \$2.99/lb	FRESH WHOLE Chickens \$1.29/lb cut to order	Fresh Country Sausage \$1.79/lb

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Southern Village, Meadowmont, Gateway developers plan massive Buckhorn area retail development

Retail center could add considerable boost to tax revenues

By Kirk Ross
Staff Writer

After a flurry of news articles last weekend left things unclear on who all the players were in a massive retail and mixed use complex proposed near Mebane, the principles in the project issued a detailed statement Wednesday outlining their vision for a proposed 1.1 million square foot development.

In an interview Tuesday, John Fugo of Montgomery Capital Development Corp., which was part of the group that developed Southern Village, said he will be the project manager for Buckhorn Village, which is being developed

by a partnership including Montgomery, Hillsborough’s Gateway developer George Horton of Tryon Investment Group and Meadowmont developers Roger and Ben Perry of East West Partners.

Former Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf, who works for Bryan Properties, is also working on the project, Fugo said.

The group put together Buckhorn Road Associates last September after being asked by county officials to explore a retail center for the county’s Buckhorn Road Economic Development District, which is located near the intersection of Buckhorn Road and I-85 between Mebane and Efland.

According to the statement issued by the partnership, it acquired control over 128 acres that is currently occupied in part by the Buckhorn Road Flea Market. The statement says that at buildout, Buckhorn Village could be valued at \$125 million and generate about \$1.6 million in property tax revenue and \$6 million in retail sales tax revenue for the county.

Orange County took in a little more than \$21 million in sales taxes last year and officials throughout the county have worried about the growing “leakage” of sales taxes thanks to the growth of nearby but out-of-county shopping centers such as Durham’s Streets at Southpoint.

“Buckhorn Village will eventually help Orange County retain much of the sales taxes that are currently being lost to retail projects in Durham and Alamance counties,” Fugo is quoted as saying in the release.

The partnership has been in talks with the county for several month over the scope and shape of the project, which is located in one of the counties specially designated economic development districts. Sewer and water service for the site will come from the town of Mebane and the area is likely to become part of the town.

A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for late February.

Martin Luther King Day events in town and on campus

SUNDAY JAN 20

The 23rd Annual University-Community Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. at the William & Ida B. Friday Center for Continuing Education. The Rev. Chancy R. Edwards, pastor emeritus at First Baptist Church in Fayetteville and senior advisor to the governor of North Carolina, is the keynote speaker for the event. To purchase tickets, please contact 962-6962 or visit www.unc.edu/diversity/mlk/schedule.html.

MONDAY JAN 21

The annual community celebration of the life of Martin Luther King Jr., a rally with speeches and song, will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Peace & Justice Plaza at the Franklin Street Post Office. At 10:30 a.m., participants will march west on Franklin Street to First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill, located at 106 N. Roberson St., for the annual service commemorating King’s life. The Rev. Curtis Gatewood, former president of the Durham Chap-

ter of the NAACP, is the featured speaker at the 11 a.m. service.

Campus events include;

- He Was a Poem: A Gathering in the Tradition, an event that will explore Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy through music, poetry and spoken word, will being at 7 p.m. Monday The Sonja Haynes Stone Center. Musician Bradley Simmons of the Duke University Djembe Ensemble, poets Michael and Lita Simanga and spoken word artist Kim

Arrington will perform.

- Candlelight Vigil at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday around the Old Well in McCorkle Place.
- The MLK Keynote Lecture: Ruby Dee and Presentation of 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Memorial Hall. For tickets, call the box office at 843-3333.

For information about more campus events, visit <http://www.unc.edu/diversity/mlk/schedule.html>.

Commissioners vote to test landfill gas with UNC

By Susan Dickson
Staff Writer

The Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday voted unanimously to enter into a 90-day agreement with UNC to explore the feasibility of a landfill gas-recovery project.

Commissioners and county officials have said they would like to launch a possible gas-recovery project at the landfill as a way of reducing greenhouse gases. County staff had recommended in November that the commissioners request proposals from private firms as well as the university, but university officials said they would not bid against private firms.

The board had agreed in December to consider a proposal by UNC to use county landfill gas to power the university’s Carolina North Development.

Commissioner Mike Nelson expressed concern that the university would choose not to launch the project at the end of the 90-day period, and that the gas should be captured sooner rather than later because emissions will peak.

“Reading through this [agreement], it really sounds much iffier than it sounded [in December],” Nelson said. “I continue to have concerns about whether, even

if they get to the end of the 90 days and decide that they want to proceed, it’s going to take a long time to get their project up and running.”

The board discussed soliciting bids from private companies during the 90-day period in order to be prepared if the university decided not to launch the project, but opted against it in order to allow the university the option to submit the first proposal.

“Because of our respect for the university and our desire to better our working relationship with the university, we have said that we would do this,” board Chair Barry Jacobs said, adding that county staff should be prepared to begin soliciting bids from private companies on the 91st day.

The university will return to the board with a possible project proposal in April.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF OUR LOCAL WATER SUPPLY?

A Public Forum Sponsored by the
OWASA Board of Directors

Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 7:00 PM
in the Chapel Hill Town Hall
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

All OWASA customers are invited to attend and participate in a public forum on Thursday night, January 24th regarding “The State of Our Local Water Supply.” The purposes of the forum are to provide information to customers and to receive customers’ questions and feedback about:

- ✓ Local water supply and demand and weather forecasts for coming months;
- ✓ Short- and long-term financial implications and strategies for the drought;
- ✓ The options, costs and timetable for addressing the “Worst Case” drought scenario (no rainfall for many months); and
- ✓ Proposed near-term changes in OWASA’s water conservation standards and parallel local water conservation ordinances to further limit outdoor irrigation in Stage Two and Stage Three water shortages. (Stage Two restrictions are now in effect.)

If approved, the proposed changes would generally prohibit irrigation with hand-held hoses, soaker hoses, drip irrigation and micro-spray systems in Stage Two shortages, and all irrigation with OWASA drinking water would be prohibited in Stage Three shortages.

The public forum on the 24th will be televised live on local cable channel 18.

The OWASA Board of Directors had originally planned to hold a public hearing on January 24th to receive feedback on potential rate increases to offset revenue losses due to conservation if the current drought continues. However, at its January 10, 2008 meeting, the OWASA Board decided to cancel the hearing, and hold the public forum in its place.

OWASA will pursue \$1.3 million of cuts in operating costs to offset potential revenue loss resulting from the drought. OWASA staff will continue to carefully monitor costs, revenues, demand, etc. and will report monthly to the Board on financial and related factors.

Questions or comments?

Please contact OWASA at 968-4421 or webmaster@owasa.org. Information about water supply, demand and conservation is also available on the OWASA website, www.owasa.org.

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Orange Water and Sewer Authority



400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510
968-4421; fax: 968-4464; webmaster@owasa.org; www.owasa.org

OWASA is the community-owned, public non-profit water and sewer agency serving the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.