


This Weekend



Friday
Partly Sunny
61/36

Saturday
Mostly Cloudy
49/31

Sunday
60% chance of Rain
45/42

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Elections

Keep up with filings, stories and voter information



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE
Red flowers of female Red Maple

Taking a closer look

FLORA

By Ken Moore

In February, I love observing the daily swelling of buds, the bright coloring of stems and the flowering of tiny winter annuals on the ground and shrubs and trees above. Simultaneously, this constant assault of springtime awakenings makes me panic with the realization that well-intentioned chores and worthy projects set aside for the winter months are far from completed.

My moods of panic result in negative outbursts like “I hate spring!” and “spring is highly over-rated!” My annual vocal springtime pronouncements are by now expected by friends. My gardening friend, Sally, always thoughtfully reminds me that the word “hate” should be eliminated from one’s vocabulary and she offers sincere condolences that I find anything but joy with the re-awakenings of spring.

On reflection, I realize that my indoor winter projects never get my necessary attention because there is so much of interest in the outdoors.

For instance, in spite of the continuing freezing weather, we are entering the peak season of flowering of Red Maples, *Acer rubrum*. During the next several weeks, we will be seeing dense red clusters on leafless branches. These clusters of tiny flowers can be fully appreciated only with a close-up view with a sharp eye. I make use of a 10x hand lens, though most any hand-held reading magnifiers will suffice.

Maple flowers lack the obvious petals we see on most flowering plants. A close look will reveal that these clusters contain only female or male parts on each flower. Now we’re entering a botany lesson as well as taking a peak at the sex lives of plants. Maple trees are described as polygamous. Some trees have only male flowers, clusters of stamens; other trees have only female flowers, clusters of pistils. Sometimes a single tree will have perfect flowers – i.e., male and female parts in the same flower. The male tree of pollen-bearing stamens has an overall yellowish tint. The female flowers have

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Local black history event this Friday at ArtsCenter

Hidden Voices, an ArtsCenter-based youth theater project debuts the result of a two-year collaboration between local students, university classes and the elders of the historic black neighborhoods of Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The first part of the project, entitled *Because We’re Still Here (and Moving)*, opened last week with a photo and scrapbook show and the distribution of a walking map that details the landmarks of the neighborhoods.

On Friday, Hidden Voices premieres a multimedia event

telling the story of the local black community through poetry, rap, photos, stories, creative movement and music. Participants include students who worked collecting the stories of their elders and the residents themselves.

There will be three performances on Friday, at 10 a.m., 11:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Admission for the morning shows is \$6. The evening show is free, with donations encouraged.

Visit www.artscenterlive.org or call 929-2787 for more information.

—STAFF REPORTS



PHOTO BY TITUS HEAGINS
Longtime educators and community leaders R.D. and Euzelle Smith, for whom Smith Middle School is named, are just two of the individuals who contributed their stories for the *Because We’re Still Here (and Moving)* project. This portrait is one of dozens of community members photographed for the project.



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ
Virginia and Milton Julian have laughed their way through the differences.

Change wardrobes but keep your Valentine

RECENTLY ...

By Valerie Schwartz

Some of life’s occurrences have a one-word explanation: Fate.

That’s how Milton and Virginia Julian have looked at life since meeting one spring day in 1945 after Milton knocked on the door of his brother Ira’s home and a delightful blonde responded.

“Who are you?” Virginia asked in her native Greensboro accent.

“Well, who are you?” Milton tossed back with a quickening heart. “Is Ira home?”

Ira, an attorney and owner of the Kent Street Bakeries in Greensboro and Winston-Salem, was away on a business trip and had asked his reliable employee, Virginia, who was working her way through college, to man-

age the Winston-Salem store in his absence and stay in his home with the maid and two of his children.

Milton, of Brockton, Mass., had just been discharged from the Army Air Force after serving for three and a half years during World War II. The youngest of five boys, he returned to Ira’s home, where he had lived in

SEE **RECENTLY** PAGE 5

Carrboro may look to businesses to help cover parking needs

by Kirk Ross

Staff Writer

While stopping short of calling outright for a Chapel Hill-style special taxation district for downtown, Mayor Mark Chilton and members of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen said maintaining plentiful, free parking downtown will be difficult if funded only by the town.

At a work session on parking at Town Hall Tuesday night, the board reviewed a parking study being conducted in conjunction with the town by university planning students. The study will examine the availability, use and future projections for downtown public and private lots, and town planners are hoping it will deliver some additional insights into solving an anticipated crunch for parking spaces as downtown develops.

At least two projects in the pipeline will reduce spaces in widely used privately owned parking lots downtown — a lot leased by the town adjacent to the rail line on East Main Street and a portion of the Carr Mill Mall lot on Roberson Street.

A more in-depth review of parking was initiated after the developers of Roberson Place, at the corner of Greensboro and Roberson streets, asked for less parking

than current rules require. That move was met with protests, with several residents and business owners writing to the board asking that the development not be granted a reduction in parking.

The board of aldermen held a lengthy discussion on parking at its recent retreat, sketching out a list of discussion points including:

- the importance of free public parking;
- striking a balance between accommodating people who drive downtown versus encouraging everyone to drive downtown;
- a desire to maintain an environment where people can park and walk to multiple businesses;
- a desire to look at multi-modal solutions;
- interest in the Blue Urban Bikes program;
- integrating public transit;
- residential parking permits for downtown neighborhoods;
- the need to understand fiscal implications of any proposal.

The town is also collecting responses to a parking survey sent to local businesses.

On Tuesday, Chilton said that if the board is serious about maintaining free parking, it will have to find a way to pay for it that’s fair.

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Learning by the book

by Susan Dickson

Staff Writer

On a Wednesday morning in Day McLaughlin’s fifth-grade classroom, the 10- and 11-year-old students are busy working on their first book, which will be published this summer.

For the book, each student is writing a story based on a memory told by a member of the black community. When asked what the hardest part about writing the story is, student Skylar Frisch expressed the struggles

of many writers.

“You have to find a part where you can stop it,” she said.

And the best part of writing the story?

“You get to make up most of it,” Skylar said. “You take some facts, and then you mix it into what might happen.”

McLaughlin’s fifth graders at McDougale Elementary School interviewed Lincoln High

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PHOTO BY AMY THOMAS
Members of the black community share stories with Day McLaughlin’s fifth-grade class.

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INSIDE

Stop dumping deer carcasses in creeks, Saxapahaw man asks

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Drought woes, Farm Bill focus of annual Ag Summit

by Susan Dickson

Staff Writer

More than 100 farmers, county officials and community members gathered on Tuesday to discuss the drought and the changing face of agriculture at the 10th annual Orange County Agricultural Summit.

Rep. David Price expressed his concerns regarding the drought to the crowd at the Orange Enterprises Building in Hillsborough, which is being considered as a possible site for a shared-use value-added food-processing center.

“I am very concerned, as I know you are, about the news that the prospects for a turnaround [in the weather] are receding,” Price said. “I of course firmly hope that that isn’t the case.”

Price said Congress is considering increasing emergency disaster assistance for crop and livestock producers, which could provide relief during the drought.

“It really is going to be necessary for us to prepare for an adverse situation,” he said. “I know

that the people most affected are our farmers.

“We have a lot of work to do in this region, short-term and long-term, in preparing for our water’s future,” Price continued. “This is not a water-rich state. This is a state where we have to shepherd our resources very carefully.”

Tom Konsler, environmental health director for Orange County, said that while well replacements have increased slightly recently, the increase is small compared to the spike in well replacements in 2002.

“Now we’re seeing a pretty big spike in irrigation wells being drilled,” Konsler said.

Board of County Commissioners Chair Barry Jacobs said the county is in the process of hiring a water resources coordinator who will focus on water conservation and public health efforts. Jacobs added that the coordinator will provide the county with scientific information about the county and its water “before we do things that will lead us in an irreparable direction.”

The summit also featured presentations from Weaver Street Market and Whole Foods

representatives, who provided information regarding obtaining products from local farmers and the increasing demand for local foods.

“There is a lot more demand for product than there is local product,” said Paul Griswold, a buyer for Weaver Street Market. “The news is good and the outlook is really bright. I just see an ever-expanding market on the East Coast.”

Local growers provided information about their operations, also emphasizing the growing demand for local foods.

To meet the increasing demand for locally grown products, the county is working with Alamance, Chatham and Durham counties to establish a shared-use value-added food-processing center, where farmers and others could make value-added products such as jams, pickles or tamales.

Consultant Smithson Mills provided an update regarding plans for the facility. According to Jacobs, the county has applied for grants to fund the facility, which could be housed at the county-owned Orange Enterprises Building.