

SHETLEY
FROM PAGE 1

“Two or three of us got together and went before the town board,” she said. “They consisted of men, old-timers. “One of them said, ‘Aw, let’s let the women have some bushes,’” she recalled, and the appearance commission was born. These days, the commission is about far more than bushes, making recommendations to the board of aldermen regarding proposed developments and other projects. Shetley was also instrumental in saving Carr Mill, which was set to be destroyed and replaced with a shopping center in the mid-1970s.

“The community got together and said, this is something that’s got to be saved,” she said. Without it, “I think the town would be entirely different.” She also served on the Board of Adjustment and chaired the Transportation Advisory Board, but eventually she grew tired of simply advising the aldermen on how they should act and decided to run for a seat on the board. “If I got on the board, then maybe I could have a vote,” she said. Elected to the board in 1987, Shetley immediately discovered the intensity of the job. “You really have to do your homework,” she said, remembering the stacks of agenda materials she used to go through on weekends. During her years on the board, she took on issues like connector roads, development and transportation, almost always determining not to make a decision on issues until after the public hearing.

“Why have a public hearing if you’re not going to listen to people?” Shetley said. She has notebooks filled with newspaper clippings, letters and photographs from her time on the board and days gone by. Flipping through one such notebook, she came across a letter she received in 1994, when the board was considering extending benefits to do-

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mestic partners of town employees and providing a town registry for same-sex domestic partners. “I can’t talk about this,” she said. “This makes me so mad. ... People were terribly upset, and they talked so ugly about it. “That’s one time that I knew the public hearing wasn’t going to change my mind,” she said. “I voted in favor of it, but I never said anything about how I was going to vote.” People were surprised by her vote, because she came from a family that might not have supported such a measure, she said. “It was just the right thing to do, that’s all,” she said. “It was not political.” Shetley was also part of heated development discussions, as she was on the board when the Hogan family was trying to sell for development the land where their dairy farm was located. Residents came out in opposition of the development. “People wanted to keep [the

land] and enjoy it,” Shetley said. But the Hogan’s’ dairy farm was no longer profitable. “They had been in the dairy business ... a long, long time,” she said. “What do you want them to do?” The board initially voted down the development, 4-3, with Shetley siding with the developers, but an agreement was reached in mediation, and Lake Hogan Farms was built. When Shetley left the board in 1995, she found herself with some free time on her hands, but she “filled it up real quick,” continuing her involvement with the town and other organizations. As Carrboro moves forward, Shetley said, the town continues to face challenges with development and revenue.

“Taxes are a real problem,” she said, adding that she’s known several older residents who have been taxed out of their homes over the years. “The thing about it is, we want a lot. We want good police protection, we want transportation ... and yet we fuss about paying for it,” she said. “We need more commerce – commercial buildings,” she said. These days, Shetley stays involved with the Carrboro Community Garden Club, of which she is a founding member. She also finds herself spending more time at the Seymour Center and the N.C. Botanical Garden. “There are always some classes to take,” she said, “things to learn.” But while she’s glad she served on the board, Shetley is happy not to be in the thick of it anymore. “I must have liked it,” she said, laughing. “Looking back on it, I’m not sure why.”

COUNCIL
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Julie McClintock said the town should honor the Pritchard family’s dream of a library in a park-like setting. The family donated the land for the site. Several residents praised the council for exploring the idea while agreeing with the decision not to move forward with negotiations with mall management. Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce executive director Aaron Nelson said the council’s creativity was rewarded and thanked them for working through the idea. Council member Gene Pease said going through the discussions will pay off in the future when the next “big idea” comes up. “I’m glad we explored it,” he said. “I think we learned how to do it better.” Asked about next steps, Stancil told the council that he plans to initiate a review of the

input received from the community before advancing plans for a move to a temporary location and construction of the new library addition already slated for the Pritchard Park location. Council member Matt Czajkowski, who brought the Kindle reader owned by his late mother to illustrate his point, encouraged Stancil to consider ways for the town’s library services to better embrace technology. Kleinschmidt and council member Laurin Easthom encouraged residents to support University Mall. The mall’s future viability was questioned during the process by some of those opposed to the move. Kleinschmidt said it was one of his regrets about the process. “Unfortunately, the mall had to take some hits,” he said. In his letter to the town, Lask said Madison Marquette was committed to making improvements at the mall, including making it possible to host more community and cultural events.

In other action Monday night, the council scheduled a public forum for Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall on the draft Durham-Chapel Hill Metropolitan Planning Organization’s 2012-18 transportation improvement plan, which sets local priorities for transportation projects with the state. The council also held the first in a series of public forums on the 2011-12 fiscal year budget, which starts on July 1. Robert Dowling, executive director of the Community Home Trust, warned the council that with new properties coming with the construction of Carrboro’s Ballentine development and Chapel Hill’s 140 West Franklin project, the home trust would likely need a boost in funding for subsidies. Council member Jim Ward said he was concerned about federal budget cuts to Community Development Block Grants and the impact on town housing programs. “CDGB [money] is at dire risk this year, not just in Chapel Hill but all around the country,” he said.

ALDERMEN
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Other board members said it was too early to form an opinion on the project and wanted to move ahead on the public-hearing process to gather more information. Board member Sammy Slade said that while hearing the concerns about the site are important, he thought not moving ahead with the hearing would send the wrong message to the county commissioners. “It may be seen as ‘Carrboro is not serious about a library,’” he said. According to its application, the county seeks to build a

20,000-square-foot single-story library on the site. Staff and collections at the Cybrary at the Carrboro Century Center and the branch library at McDougle School would be moved to the new facility, which would include rooms and collections for children, young adults and adults; a reference department; computer services; and public meeting rooms. The hearing is scheduled for March 22 at Carrboro Town Hall. In other action, the board received updates on the town’s Safe Routes to School action plan, including a series of spring events at Carrboro Elementary aimed at encouraging more students and parents to bike and

walk to the school. The board also reviewed a draft plan for a proposed Campus to Campus connector bike and pedestrian route from UNC’s Carolina North Property to the school’s main campus. A proposed route approved by the Town of Chapel Hill last fall would run down Estes Drive, then shift along the rail line and Lloyd Street as it passed through downtown Carrboro, where it would connect with the Libba Cotten Bikeway. The board also authorized \$154,000 for the purchase of a knuckleboom truck for Public Works and reappointed Heidi Perry to the town’s Transportation Advisory Board.

OBITUARIES



Donald Roush

Donald Dale Roush, 74, of Chapel Hill, N.C., passed away Monday, Feb. 7, 2011, at Clare Bridge of Chapel Hill. Donald was a native of Lawrenceburg, Ind., and the son of the late Claude Hubert and Evelyn Kaiser Roush. Mr. Roush was a veteran and proudly served in the United States Air Force. He also had a distinguished career in law enforcement, having served as a deputy sheriff in Indiana, as an inspector for the U.S. Postal Service and as a private contractor for the Department of Defense. Donald attended University United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill. Donald always loved spend-

ing time with his family and friends. He enjoyed the Washington, D.C., area, as he had a passion for history and museums. His hobbies included deep-sea fishing trips and watching football and baseball games. Donald also liked to listen to music and to read. He had a natural connection and love for all animals, and likewise they were drawn to him. Mr. Roush is survived by his wife, Marilyn Joy Roush, of Chapel Hill; one son, Donald I. Roush, and wife, Amy, of Raleigh, N.C.; two daughters, Diane Roush of Durham, N.C., and Katherine Roush of Raleigh; one brother, Michael E. Roush of Union City, Ind.; and a grandson, Samuel M. Roush. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Assoc.) Chapter 2108 in Chapel Hill, Attn.: Alzheimer’s Research contributions, or to your local chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police in care of the benevolence fund. Walker’s Funeral Home of Chapel Hill is assisting the Roush family.

Margaret Merritt

Margaret Barbee Merritt of Chapel Hill, N.C., died Feb. 9, 2011, after an extended illness, at Brithaven Nursing Home, at the age of 88. A native of Durham County and a lifelong resident of this area, she was born Margaret Louise Barbee on June 29, 1922. One of six daughters and five sons of the late Ernest Paul Barbee and Pearl Couch Barbee, she grew up part of a large and loving family on a farm in southwestern Durham County. Following graduation from Lowes Grove High School in 1939, where she and her sister Edna captained the girl’s basketball team, she operated a machine at the Liggett-Myers Tobacco

Company in Durham for more than 40 years, all while managing a household of a husband and four children, caring for her own parents as their health failed and being an active member of Antioch Baptist Church in Orange County. Margaret did not have the opportunity of a college education, but she loved to read, and she accomplished her goal that all of her children would have the opportunity she missed. On Oct. 8, 1944, Margaret married Marion Bascum (M.B.) Merritt of Chatham County and they raised a family and lived together in Carrboro, the White Cross Community and Chapel Hill until his death in 1995. Upon Mar-

garet’s retirement, they moved back to White Cross, where they were closer to their friends and the activities of Antioch Baptist Church, including Women’s Missionary Union, teaching Sunday School, youth and adult ministries and the Orange County Prison Ministry, among others. Surviving are four sons, two daughters-in-law and four grandchildren: Marion Barbee Merritt of Chapel Hill; Thomas Rodwell Merritt, his wife, Bobbie, and son, Barry, of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Ronald Wayne Merritt, his wife, Patricia Huff, and son, Patrick, of Chapel Hill; and Michael Henry Merritt, his daughter, Erin, and son, Kevin, of Cha-

pel Hill. Also surviving are two sisters, Clara Barbee Riggsbee of Wilmington, N.C., and Edna Barbee Atkins of Durham, and one brother, Herbert Barbee of Durham, as well as sisters-in-law Barbara Barbee of Durham, Estelle Barbee of Carrboro, Frances Merritt Smith of Swansboro, N.C., and Eleanor Merritt Jordan of Richmond, Va. and one brother-in-law, Lloyd Smith of Swansboro. Survivors also include 15 nieces and nine nephews. One of the things all of these people miss in their lives are the large family reunions that Margaret helped organize and execute for both the Barbee and Merritt families for as long as her health allowed.

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