

News Briefs

Sapikowski pleads guilty

Adam Sapikowski agreed to plead guilty last week to two counts of second-degree murder for killing his parents in 2005. Sapikowski, 19, was set to go on trial for murdering his parents, James and Alison Sapikowski, but instead will plead guilty for the murder of his father on Friday and for the murder of his mother next week. He will serve between 40 and 50 years in prison.

Teens sought in robbery string

The Chapel Hill Police Department has obtained warrants for two teenagers in connection with a string of residential break-ins this month in the Pinehurst area. Issac Gant, 16, of 707 Emory Dr., and Van Patterson, 17, of 302 Simmerville Rd., have been charged with six counts of felony breaking and entering, three counts of felony larceny, three counts of larceny of a motor vehicle, one count of larceny from a motor vehicle, one count of injury to real property and one count of possession of stolen property.

UNC buys railside turf

The UNC Board of Trustees last week approved the purchase of a parcel of land off Merritt Mill Road adjacent to the university's railroad corridor for \$3.5 million. The majority of the 8.44-acre property is located in Carrboro, while about one acre is located in Chapel Hill. According to a UNC Board of Trustees agenda, the university has long held interest in acquiring the property in order to locate additional spur lines to stage railcars that supply coal and materials to the university's cogeneration facility on Cameron Avenue and to provide opportunities for alternate fuel delivery in the future. In addition, the acquisition of the property could also facilitate the university's long-range plans for the addition of a passenger rail line and possibly a transit station.

County investment plan hearing

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday to receive citizen comments regarding the county manager's recommended 2008-18 Capital Investment Plan as well as the Local Revenue Options Referendum. The recommended CIP, which includes plans for Orange County, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and Orange County Schools construction and renovation projects, is available online at www.co.orange.nc.us/budget.asp and at the County Budget Office and the Clerk to the Board's Office on South Cameron Street in Hillsborough. Staff will provide a brief presentation highlighting the major components of the 10-year plan during the public hearing. In addition, staff will present information regarding the Local Revenue Options Referendum, which will be on the May ballot. During its 2007 session, the Legislature gave counties the option of a 0.4 percent land transfer tax or a quarter-cent sales tax increase to compensate for money taken away from counties in a deal to make the state pay for Medicaid. The public hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the F. Gordon Battle Courtroom on East Margaret Lane in Hillsborough. Community members are also invited to submit written comments and questions about the CIP or local revenue options to: Orange County Board of County Commissioners, P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC, 27278; or by email to Budget Director Donna Coffey at dcoffey@co.orange.nc.us or to the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners at dbaker@co.orange.nc.us. Comments and questions will be shared with the board.

Fight lands students in court

At least two students have been summoned to appear in court and hear charges in connection with a fight at Carrboro High School on Jan. 17. According to the Carrboro Police Department, Joseph Keith Stifler, 17, of 2701 Homestead Rd., has been charged with public affray and ethnic intimidation. Lamont Powell, 16, of 201 Westbrook Dr., has been charged with public affray. According to Principal Jeff Thomas, the fight broke out after Stifler, who is white, made racially charged comments to a black student. The fight involved three students, including Powell, another black student and Stifler. The third student involved in the fight is 15 and considered a juvenile, so information regarding charges against him is not available. According to Thomas, the incident may have been related to a previous incident in December, in which the white student involved in the fight used a racial slur toward a black student, who was not involved in the recent fight. The school has formed a committee of students, staff and parents to create a plan to deal with race issues at the school.

Hotel awarded five-star rating

The Farrington House Country Inn has been awarded, for the ninth year in a row, a Five-Star rating from Mobil Travel Guide. Forty-one hotels in the country have been rated at five stars and The Farrington House is the only one in North Carolina. The 32 rooms in the hotel underwent renovations in 2007.

Board looks at parking, commercial growth at retreat

By Kirk Ross
Staff Writer

After spending the first day of their annual retreat discussing the type of town they'd like to see Carrboro become (or remain), their personal values and how they apply that to their work, members of the board of aldermen waded into the thorny issues of parking and economic development in hopes of crafting a strategy to move forward on those issues in the year ahead. Although the board took no action, its review underscored the urgency felt by many members to get a long-term parking plan in place. Board member Jacquie Gist said she wants to make sure that as new developments come on line, they do not have a negative impact on existing businesses. Having a plan for parking is an

important part of that, she said. Gist also said the town needs to consider residential-only parking for downtown streets since new development will likely lead to more people relying on parking along residential streets. Alderman John Herrera said he thinks Carrboro's traditional free-parking policy should be maintained. Board members also expressed concern that they prioritize economic-development efforts to make sure that the goal of reducing the tax burden on homeowners by the growing commercial square footage be met. Board member Joal Hall Broun said while it might be a nice idea to review policies and enhance opportunities for home businesses, the end result — likely a small increase in privilege license fees — won't have a significant impact on the town



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS
Town leaders and key town staffers met for two days at the OWASA community room last weekend at the annual retreat for the mayor and board of aldermen.

budget. Increasing the take from commercial property taxes by adding new businesses and development and preventing leak-

age of retail sales taxes to other counties should be the focus, she said.

OBITUARIES

Renée Fontaine Krusa

Renée Fontaine Krusa, 90, died January 22nd at Carol Woods Retirement Community in Chapel Hill, NC. Renée was born in Roslyn Estates, Long Island, NY to André and Mildred Arey Fontaine. Her father was born in France and her mother's heritage can be traced to the Mayflower's arrival in 1620. The Fontaines owned and operated the first summer camp for girls in the U.S. in the New York Finger Lakes Region. There Renée got her start in athletics, especially competitive swimming. Renée graduated from Katharine Gibbs School in NY and Bradford College in MA before working at the Northport, NY School District and Young & Rubicam Advertising in NYC. Renée and Hans Krusa were married in 1940. Hans' work for took them to Nigeria, Egypt and India in the 1960s. She worked as executive secretary to the Ford Foundation's West African Representative and was a gracious hostess for many international dinners abroad. They enjoyed the opportunity of living with people of other cultures and learning about their customs and challenges. They retired in Chapel Hill and moved to Carol Woods in 1982.

Mrs. Krusa is survived by her husband, Hans E. Krusa, Prof. Emeritus, UNC-CH; three children, Paul F. Krusa, Joan Krusa Asplin, and Peter B. Krusa; 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. A memorial service will be held Jan. 27, 2:00 pm, at Carol Woods Assembly Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, 110 Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510.

Edward Sigurd Hasselblad

Edward Sigurd Hasselblad, 98, died on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at his Carolina Meadows residence in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He was born in Seattle, Washington on December 17, 1909. He lived there until he and his wife moved to Durham several years ago. Ed devoted his life to education. He was a highly respected and loved high school principal and administrator in the greater Seattle area. He was an accomplished musician, often playing the piano to entertain his friends at Carolina Meadows. He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 60 years, Helen. Surviving is one son, Vic Hasselblad, a daughter-in-law, Carol, both of Durham, and a grandson, Brad of Savannah. Arrangements are being handled by the Cremation Society of the Carolinas.

Water Report - January 29, 2008	
LAKE LEVELS	
University Lake	6 feet, 3.5 in. below full
Cane Creek	15 ft., 8.25 in. below full
Total Availability Supply	39.7% of capacity
PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH	
Jones Ferry Rd. Treatment Plant	1.15 in.
Cane Creek Reservoir	1.24 in.
Normal rainfall for Jan.	4.24"
CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND	
7-Day Average	7.907 million gallons
30-Day Average	7.204 million gallons
Estimated days of water remaining	196 (based on average demand, assuming no further rainfall.)
Source: OWASA	

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