

**This Weekend**

**Friday**  
Mostly Sunny  
58/37  
**Saturday**  
Partly Cloudy  
59/33  
**Sunday**  
Partly Cloudy  
46/25

# C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

## Opinion

*Carrboro High students on race and the school's image*

## Filing starts Monday for May 6 primary

by Kirk Ross  
Staff Writer

Although the contenders on the national portion of the ticket are already campaigning, the 2008 state primary season officially starts Monday with the opening of the three-week filing period.

Candidates can file at the Orange County Board of Elections office in Hillsborough from noon on Monday, Feb. 11 till noon February 29.

The primary will see a full ballot, with national presidential and congressional races and state races — including governor, lieutenant governor and council of state as well as

legislative contests — and the first districts contest for Orange County Board of Commissioners. Also on May 6, voters will select three members for the nonpartisan Orange County Schools Board of Education.

SEE **FILING** PAGE 10

## Vote! 2008

## Commissioner race gets rolling

by Kirk Ross  
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill-Carrboro school board Chair Pam Hemminger and Orange County Planning Board member Bernadette Pelissier say they plan to file soon for the May Democratic primary for Orange County commissioner. They'll join incumbent commissioner Valerie Foushee who has indicated previously she'll seek another term.

Filing season starts Monday at noon and Hemminger, who sought a seat on the board in 2004, said she plans to get started early. She said she wants to run because of her concern for how the county will handle growth.

Hemminger, who was appointed to the school board in 2005 and won election in 2006, said she thinks her experience with schools and as a longtime parks and recreation supporter

will be an asset to the board in dealing with growth issues. "I feel versed on it and I want to help," she said.

The county has a number of budget and tax issues to tackle, Hemminger said, including how to keep up with the need for new schools. With the school district about to open Morris Grove Elementary,

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 10



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE  
Sturdily built nest of a clever bird architect.

## Signs of spring and birds' nests

### FLORA

By Ken Moore

The familiar signs of spring for most of us are already evident. Crocuses and Japanese Apricot, *Prunus Mume*, are in flower and daffodils are showing flower buds. But these are foreigners, long ago established in our cultivated gardens. True signs of spring are the deepening stem colors and swelling flower and leaf buds in the wilds of nature's garden. This past weekend, four of us enjoyed discovering some of these spring signals along Bolin Creek trails in the university's Carolina North Preserve (Horace Williams Tract).

Following are descriptions of some early-spring signals. But first I must digress to share what we saw while crossing a field. We spied a really beautiful tiny lichen-encrusted bird nest situated about ten feet above us on a lateral limb of a small Hackberry tree, *Celtis laevigata*. We thought the architect to be a hummingbird. The nest appeared so sturdy we could imagine it being used a second season. We'll return in late spring to investigate. What a clever bird to site the nest in this particular Hackberry: the trunk and lower limbs are abnormal with numerous thorny, twisted twig growths emerging from the characteristic warty bark. It presents a very unappealing climb for predators.

In the tall grass beneath the tree, we discovered another small nest, this one of grass and moss, only two feet above the ground. It was neatly constructed in a thorny Carolina Rose, *Rosa carolina*, another site rather uninviting for potential predators. Perhaps one

SEE **FLORA** PAGE 5



PHOTO BY AMANDA CRISP, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT CARRBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.  
Jean Thorpe, former Carrboro Elementary teacher, during a recent visit to Carrboro Elementary School, where students learned about Black History (see story, Page 8).

## Board wants to alter rules to allow for taco trucks

by Kirk Ross  
Staff Writer

Don't call it a reprieve, more like a pause in the action, but for operators of Carrboro's taco trucks there was good news Tuesday night from the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.

At the close of the board of aldermen meeting at Town Hall, Mayor Mark Chilton asked the town's planning and zoning staff to review the ordinance that the trucks were found in violation of and offer up potential solutions to keep the trucks in operation.

Last month, the town sent a letter to the owners of Fitch Lumber, Johnny Sporting Goods and Cliff's Meat Market saying the taco trucks, which usually operate in the evening hours at those sites, are in violation of town zoning ordinances.

The letters went out after town officials received an anonymous complaint and investigated whether the trucks were out of compliance with zoning rules.

Chilton said that while he understood that officials were enforcing the rules consistently with the way they had in the past, there is a strong desire to find a way to allow the trucks to operate.

"It might be time to consider a modification," Chilton said of the ordinance, which was originally worded to exempt farmers selling items they grew and trucked in to the farmers' market.

Planning administrator Trish McGuire said members of the planning and zoning staff will meet today (Thursday) to discuss next steps and that she will likely meet with the businesses and truck owners to help come up with a possible new ordinance.

McGuire said it was clear Tuesday that the board is interested in finding a way to change the ordinance so that it was supportive of the trucks.

SEE **TRUCKS** PAGE 10

## Effort to celebrate Carrboro's architectural heritage moves forward

by Susan Dickson  
Staff Writer

Old mill houses are scattered throughout downtown Carrboro. And while probably few passing by notice, dozens of them are almost exactly the same, built by mill owner Thomas Lloyd around the turn of the 20th century.

Like these mill houses, many Carrboro buildings — both residential and commercial — were built long ago, during Carrboro's era as a mill town; but over the years, they've become difficult to spot.

According to *Carrboro, N.C.: An Architectural and Historical Inventory*, published by the Carrboro Appearance Commission in 1983, more than 150 structures within Carrboro's city limits were built prior to 1930.

To identify these buildings for visitors and residents alike, the Carrboro Appearance Commission has launched the Carrboro Historic Building Plaque Program.



Seeing Double? These houses, which are home to the Red Hen and Provence are two of many built by Thomas Lloyd.

The program is hosting a contest for local artists to design the plaque that will mark Carrboro's historic buildings. The winner will receive \$500.

"It's a great little project," said Catherine DeVine, coordinator of the project and former member of the appearance commission.

DeVine said she started working on the project about a year ago with fellow appearance commission member Tom Wiltberger.

Many owners of the historic buildings have maintained and restored the properties, DeVine said. "We said, 'Let's start marking all these historic buildings,'" she



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

added. "We convinced the rest of the appearance commission that it was a great idea."

DeVine said the commission sent mailings to about 150 residents and business owners in historic buildings to gauge the interest in a plaque program.

While only about 20 people

attended the program's first meeting, DeVine said she plans to send out a second mailing soon and hopes to attract more interest from the owners of historic Carrboro buildings.

SEE **PLAQUES** PAGE 10

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## INSIDE

**Sports**  
*Blind photographer sees the big picture*

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## School project an atypical lesson in problem solving

**RECENTLY...**  
By Valerie Schwartz

As much as any other knowledge, high school students seek to know who they are and where they want their next steps in life to take them.

Teachers like Rob Greenberg, who teaches Earth and environmental science at Chapel Hill High School, help them explore beyond typical parameters, and with the "Celebration of Earth and Sky" exhibit at Carrboro Century Center from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, community members can also participate in the opening of young minds toward new realms.

Attendees of the event will find the results of a month-long group project Greenberg assigned that covers elements of geography, geology, ecology, climatology, business and architecture — and, of course, creativity.

The assignment was to pick a location anywhere in the world and create an ancient island there — during pre-human times. The loca-

tion would predicate the topography, climate and ecology of the island, which would all be included in a map and key the students were to draw of the island they would name.

The second part of the assignment was to draw a map of the island today, including infrastructure designed to leave the smallest footprint, paying attention to all elements of human existence, including dealing with their water, energy and waste requirements within a 10-square-mile area with a population of 1,000 to 2,000. They were also to design a community building — be it a school or recreation or town center.

It's a lot to cover in four weeks, but by sharing the work among four student teams a lot was learned by 110 students of all grades, with some pretty creative results.

"In the real world, they're going to have to be able to problem-solve," Greenberg said. "No child left behind is a good idea — nobody should be left behind — but teaching to a test isn't. There's a lack of science taught in elementary school because of the preparation for a multiple-choice test.

The real world is not about hiding answers from others and taking a standardized test, but [about] memorizing facts and concepts then applying them, making predictions, executing ideas, trying to solve problems.

Greenberg's helping them look for "green" solutions first.

He chose the assignment (which may become his own master's thesis next year) and he chose who would work together.

"We didn't even know each other names," said Louisa Sloan of her teammates, who are all seniors except for Andrew Hertzberg, a junior.

"We work pretty well together," Natalie Archer said.

They created the island North Acesulfame off the northern coast of New Zealand (the name was lifted from the ingredients in a bottle of water).

"We did research finding out different things specific to our island," said Jess Hitt.

SEE **RECENTLY** PAGE 5

## HOW TO REACH US

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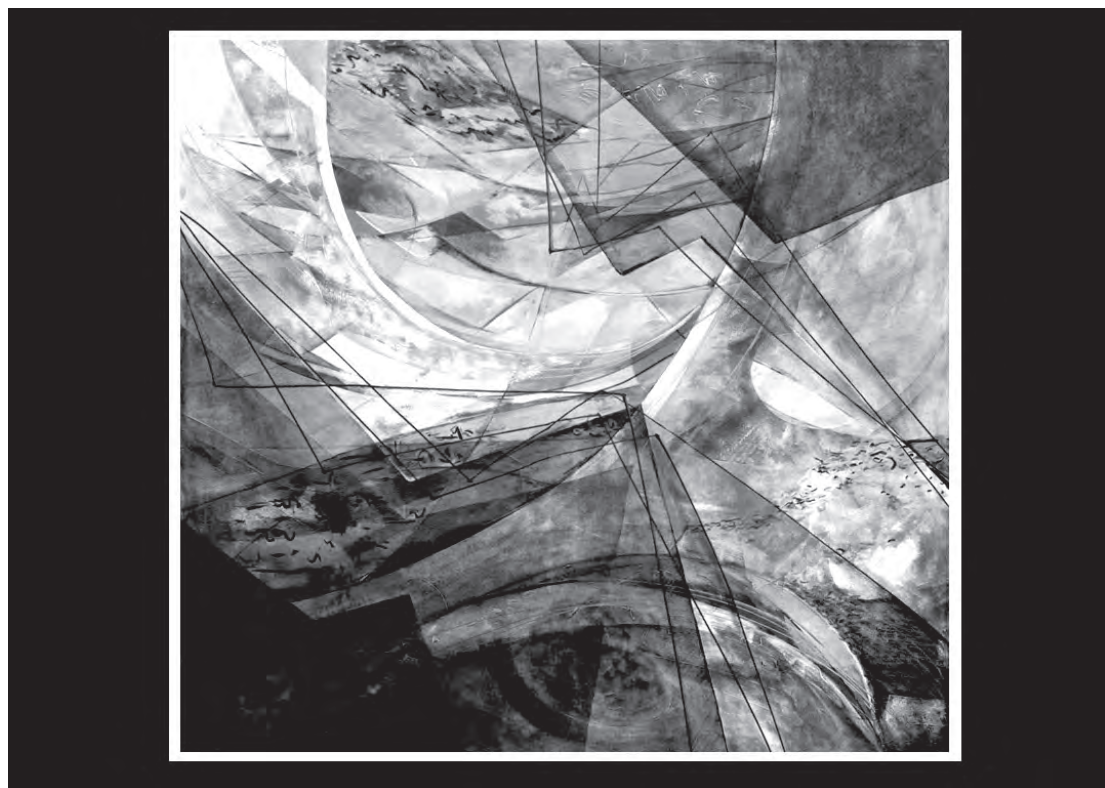
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This Week: February 8 — 14, 2008

Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday. Event listings for each day including 'Rosie Ledet and her Zydeco Playboys', 'The 7th Annual Bob Marley Birthday Bash', 'The Celebration of Earth and Sky', 'Hidden Voices photography exhibit', 'Sleepsound, Grey Market, Velvet and The Nothing Noise', 'Ryan Bingham, American Aquarium and Kennebec', and 'Imaginary Portraits'.

Arts Calendar



Acrylic paintings by Catherine Carter are on display in the Controlled Chaos show at Panzenella.

Carrboro

Because We're Still Here (and Moving): Mapping a World of Black History in Our Own Backyard — photography exhibit & interactive installation, Center Gallery.

Mixed media by Chief — a tribute to the artists' new daughter. The Beehive Salon, 102 E. Weaver St.

Under the Big Blue Sky — works by self-taught artist Valerie Tan. Showing through Feb. Century Center, 100 N Greensboro St.

Bolin Creek and Woodlands: Natural Treasures — photography by Dave Otto. Carrboro Town Hall, 301 W Main St.

Works by Jamie Nervo — everyday events and characters with a twist. Fleet Feet Gallery, 406 E Main St.

The Road Home — new paintings by Chapel Hill artist Melissa Miller. NC Crafts Gallery, 212 W Main St.

Paintings by Laura Williams. Nested, 118-B E Main St. 338-8023, nested-home.com.

Paintings by Mary Charlton and multimedia work by Miles Murray. Open Eye Café, 101 S Greensboro St.

Controlled Chaos — acrylic paintings by Catharine Carter. Through Mar 31, Panzanella, Carr Mill Mall, E Weaver St & N Greensboro St.

Images from Chatham County — photography by Dwain Ritchie. Weaver Street Realty, 116 E Main St.

Chapel Hill Picturing the World: Carolina's Celebrated Photojournalists; Showing through April 6. Perspectives on Public Justice.

Pablo Picasso — Imaginary Portraits. Showing Feb 8-Mar 13. Reception Friday, Feb. 8 from 6-9pm.

Paintings by Lynne Clarke — heavy texture, inclusion of divergent, interesting found materials, strong color and the shape of mass and volume.

The Faces of Child Trafficking — Photography by Angela Harper. Showing through Feb 25. FedEx Global Education Center.

Color & Pagentry — works by world renowned artists. Turning Point Gallery, University Mall.

Paintings by Cat Moleski — Bright, insightful & contemplative work. Bagwell, Holt, Smith, Tillman & Jones, PA.

Hillsborough

Winter Blues — art by the artists of Hillsborough Gallery of Arts. Through Feb 23.

Pittsboro

A Touch of RED. Exhibit opening Feb 3, 12-5pm. Chatham County Arts Council, 115 Hillsboro St.

Music Calendar

THURSDAY FEB 7

ArtsCenter: Patty Larkin. 8:30pm. \$22

Blue Bayou Club: Puritan Rodeo. 8:30pm

Blue Horn Lounge: Mark Wells & Jill Christensen. 10pm

The Cave: Early: Brandon Herndon & John Pardue. Late: Mr. K & The Famous.

General Store Café: Marie Vanderbeck Trio. 8pm

Local 506: White Williams, Ecstatic Sunshine, Rings. 9pm. \$10

Reservoir: Hazerai, The Unholy Four, Adam Thorn.

FRIDAY FEB 8

ArtsCenter: Greg Trooper. 8:30pm. \$14

Blue Bayou Club: Rosie Ledet & the Zydeco Playboys. 9:30pm

Blue Horn Lounge: HWYL. 10pm

Cat's Cradle: Jay Clifford, Slow Runner, Steven Fiore. 8:45pm. \$15.

The Cave: Early: Ali Marcus w/ Mary Johnson. Late: Transportation w/ Blood Red Sun

General Store Café: Watercallers. 8:30pm

Nightlight: Invisible, In Defiance, Your Best Friend. 10pm

SATURDAY FEB 9

Blue Bayou Club: The Heaters. 9:30pm

Blue Horn Lounge: Blue Diablo. 10pm

Cat's Cradle: 7th Annual Bob Marley Birthday Bash with Mickey Mills & Steel, Jamrock, Dub Addis, Cayenne The Lion King, G-Toy Band. 8:30pm. \$20

The Cave: Early: Imaginary Girlfriend. Late: Twilighter w/ Warm In The Wake

General Store Café: Good Rockin' Sam. 8:30pm

Local 506: Erie Choir, Nathan Oliver, Jen Richelson. 10pm

Nightlight: Lost in the Trees, Humboldt Current, Sweet By and By. 9pm. \$6

Open Eye Café: Tony Low. 8pm

Reservoir: Caltrop, Ruscha. 10pm

SUNDAY FEB 10

Cat's Cradle: Viva la Vagina benefit concert with Mowgli, Eyes of The Elders, Harmute, The Loreleis, The Dickens, The Achordants. 8pm. \$10



Check out Delorean at Local 506.

The Cave: Benyaro w/ James Dunn. 9pm

Local 506: Battle of the Bands. Time TBA. Price TBA.

MONDAY FEB 11

Local 506: 9PM Traffic, Delorean. 9:30pm. Free.

Nightlight: Boyzone, Hugs and Kisses, Rage against the Cage, Twink Billy. 9:30pm

Reservoir: Grey Market, Stella By Starlight, The Busy World.

TUESDAY FEB 12

Blue Bayou Club: Open blues jam w/ Butch Haas. 8pm

Blue Horn Lounge: Fabio Consani. 10pm

Cat's Cradle: Citizen Cope. Sold out.

The Cave: Sleepsound, Grey Market, Velvet, The Nothing Noise. 9pm. \$5

Nightlight: Phon, Human Adult Band, Drums like Machine Guns, Waste Gates. 9pm

WEDNESDAY FEB 13

Blue Horn Lounge: Real Rueben's Steve Jack

The Cave: Early: Nervous But Excited. Late: McCauliffe Brothers.

Local 506: Ryan Bingham, American Aquarium, Kennebec. 9pm. \$8

Nightlight: Crowmeat Bob, Kristy Kruger, Beat Circus. 9:30pm

THURSDAY FEB 14

Blue Bayou Club: Lucy Summer & Bo Lankenau. 8:30pm

Blue Horn Lounge: Paleface. 10pm

The Cave: Early: Davis Stillson. Late: Dirty Little Heaters, The Pneurotics, Virgo 9. \$5

General Store Café: Club Boheme. 8pm

Local 506: Tripp, Jason Adamo, Luego, Jeff Crawford. Time TBA. Price TBA.

CAT'S CRADLE event listings. Includes 'High on Fire', 'JAY CLIFFORD', 'MESHHELL', 'TOUBAB KREWE', 'ENGLISH BEAT & RX BANDITS', 'MATT COSTA', 'CHATHAM COUNTY LINE', 'ANTI-FLAG', 'DESTROYER', 'MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO', 'THE UNSEEN', 'SONS AND DAUGHTERS', 'HOTEL CAFÉ TOUR', 'BROTHER ALI', 'BADFISH: A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME', 'WXYC 80s DANCE', 'MIKE DOUGHTY'S BAND', 'CARIBOU', 'SAY ANYTHING', 'GARY LOURIS', 'THE WEAKERTHANS', 'SUSAN TEDESCHI'.

Weaver Street REALTY advertisement. Features a sunburst logo with the text 'SINCE 1982' and 'Earth-Friendly • Alternative Community-Supportive'. Includes the tagline 'Your home-grown real estate firm in downtown Carrboro for 25 years!' and contact information: WeaverStreetRealty.com, 929.5658.



## News Briefs

### Artwalk this Friday

Galleries and businesses throughout Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Southern Village will open their doors for those in search of art. Event times and openings vary from place to place, but 6 to 8 p.m. is the standard time for most places.

Among the shows featured this month is "Because We're Still Here and Moving: Mapping a World of Black History in Our Own Backyard" — a photo exhibit and interactive installation at the ArtsCenter. The show features current photos and scrapbook memories from residents of the historic black neighborhoods and a newly produced walking map of the community. The reception is from 6 to 8 p.m.

A complete listing of galleries and exhibits can be found on *MILL, The Carrboro Citizen's* arts and entertainment blog at [www.carrborocitizen.com/mill](http://www.carrborocitizen.com/mill)

### Rabies vaccination clinics

The Orange County Animal Services Department will offer four low-cost rabies vaccination clinics during February.

The vaccination fee is \$5 and must be paid in cash. To receive a three-year vaccination, bring your pet's most recent vaccination certificate. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers. Animals that might be nervous or unsettled should be kept in a vehicle for their vaccinations.

Clinic times and locations include:

- February 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Orange County Animal Shelter on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Chapel Hill;
- February 16, 1-2 p.m., at New Hope Fire Station #2, on N.C. 86 in Chapel Hill;
- February 20, 8:30-10 a.m., at Orange County Animal Control on Revere Road in Hillsborough; and
- February 23, 1-3 p.m., at the Orange County Animal Shelter.

One-year vaccinations will be offered at all clinics, while three-year vaccinations will be offered at the February 16 and February 23 clinics only.

For more information, contact animal services at 245-2075.

### New home repair program launched

Homeowners who live in the Northside and Pine Knolls neighborhoods can receive no-interest, forgivable loans to repair their houses through the Town of Chapel Hill's Comprehensive Housing Rehabilitation Program. EmPOWERment, Inc. will host an information session on the program on Wednesday, February 13th from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Pine Knolls Community Center, 107 Johnson St. Continental breakfast will be provided. Jamie Rohe, community development planner with the town, will give a presentation and answer questions about the program.

The program covers repairs for owner-occupied homes of low- and moderate-income residents in the two neighborhoods. Homeowners receive no-interest, forgivable loans to cover the cost of the repairs. The town hires a contractor to perform the repairs. If the homeowners continue to live in their homes after the work is done, they will not need to repay the loans.

### Rabid raccoon found

A raccoon found in Chapel Hill tested positive for rabies last week at the State Laboratory of Public Health.

The raccoon was found dead in the yard of a home in the vicinity of Albert and Dairyland roads. The resident found the raccoon after discovering blood on one of her three dogs.

All three dogs were currently vaccinated against rabies and received rabies booster shots, which are required within 72 hours of exposure. Unvaccinated cats and dogs that are reasonably suspected of being exposed to rabies must either be destroyed or quarantined for six months.

In addition, because of the resident's possible secondary exposure, an Orange County communicable disease nurse will work with the resident to determine if medical treatment is needed.

This is the first positive rabies test received by Orange County Animal Services in 2008. Last year, there were 19 positive rabies tests for the county. If any possible exposure to a bat, raccoon or fox is suspected, contact Animal Control at 245-2075 or call 911.

### Feline surplus

The Orange County Animal Services Department has taken in 10 cats from a Hendersonville adoption facility that was recently shut down.

A district court ordered the All Creatures Great and Small facility to close and make immediate improvements and to release 350 animals to other animal rescue and shelter organizations.

Most of the cats taken in by Orange County are on public display and are ready for adoption.

## School board to affirm undocumented students' rights

By Susan Dickson  
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education tonight (Thursday) is expected to approve a recommendation to support the recent ruling that requires North Carolina Community Colleges to admit undocumented individuals who meet admission requirements.

The North Carolina Community College System in November directed all community colleges to begin admitting un-

documented individuals, who must pay out-of-state tuition. According to school officials, the board is considering supporting the ruling because Chapel Hill-Carrboro students are affected by the decision and could be negatively impacted if the General Assembly were to consider legislation overriding the decision.

The school board in January considered whether or not to take a position on the issue, and directed administration to bring back a recommendation for the board to support the ruling.

Martin Lancaster, president of the North Carolina Community College System, said in a statement, "The vast majority of students who might pursue an educational opportunity at a community college came to this country as young children having no choice in the matter. They were brought here by their parents, often as babes in arms. How can these children be considered 'lawbreakers' intent on taking advantage of our community college programs illegally?..."

"If North Carolina wants to continue its dramatic economic

progress, it must embrace education as the primary strategy for its future. No potential worker of tomorrow must ever be consigned to the desperation that comes from ignorance and inability to obtain rewarding employment."

According to Lancaster, 37 of the state's 57 community colleges had already begun formally admitting undocumented individuals prior to the ruling, and 340 undocumented students of more than 271,000 curriculum students had enrolled.

## Residents ask commissioners to drop Eubanks Road site

With supporters, some carrying signs, lining the back wall of the room, members of the Rogers-Eubanks roads community urged the Board of County Commissioners at Tuesday night's commission meeting to remove Eubanks Road from consideration as the site of a proposed solid-waste transfer station.

But the commissioners said that because of an administrative complaint filed by members of the community with the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Civil Rights they would take no action on the request at this time. The complaint was filed against the board of commissioners and a number of other local and state administrative bodies.

"This is not a commissioners' slow-me-down tactic," said Commissioner Barry Jacobs. "There is a civil rights complaint that has been filed and as long as it's there, we're not going to discuss, in public, our position."

Jacobs said that county attorney Geoff Gledhill had advised the board not to discuss the matter. "[O]n the advice of our attorney, until such time as there's

either a remedy or a change or a difference in his recommendations to us, we're just going to listen and continue with our discussions," he said.

Eubanks Road has been the site of the Orange County Landfill for more than 35 years and the community-based Coalition to End Environmental Racism (CEER) has argued that the neighborhood has carried an undue burden on behalf of the greater community and that Eubanks Road should be taken out of consideration as a potential transfer station site under federally established principles of environmental justice. The administrative complaint filed with the federal government expresses those concerns.

Rev. Robert Campbell, a long-time community leader, told the commissioners that the complaint seeks remedies under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

At Tuesday's commission meeting, CEER presented to the commissioners a petition with 450 signatures requesting that Eubanks Road be removed from consideration.

—Staff Reports



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS  
Construction proceeds around the railroad crossing at Fitch Lumber — the trickiest part of a new sidewalk link for the west side of Greensboro Street.

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**The Eleventh Annual**  
**Community Dinner**  
**Sunday, March 2 ◆ 1 PM**

McDougle School Cafetorium ◆ 900 Old Fayetteville Rd. in Carrboro

**Celebrating Orange County's Diverse Community**  
*Sit down with a stranger, leave with a friend*

**Lots of great entertainment**  
**and plenty of scrumptious food!**  
(Food donated from several (lots!) of local restaurants)

**OUR 2008 PERFORMERS (so far):**

- ◆ Ron Stutts / WCHL, Emcee ◆
- ◆ Skeedaddle ◆
- ◆ Orange County Jammers ◆
- ◆ Senior Cheer Leading Group ◆
- ◆ The TROSA Band ◆
- ◆ The Suzuki Academy of North Carolina ◆
- ◆ The Peruvian-American Association ◆
- ◆ of North Carolina Dance Group ◆

**TICKETS \$8 FOR ADULTS AND \$3 FOR KIDS**

Tickets available at the Carrboro Branch Library at McDougle School, The Ink Spot in Carrboro, The Chapel Hill Museum Shop, The Chapel Hill News, Mama Dip's Kitchen, The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, Market Street Books at Southern Village, Townsend, Bertram and Company at Carr Mill in Carrboro, Bon's Homecookin' & The Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce at 102 N.Churton Street

A large number of the tickets for the dinner are distributed to people who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend. You can feed a family of four with a \$22 donation!

**ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY** - Because there is limited seating for this event, tickets are only available in advance, so be sure to get your tickets before we sell out.

The Community Dinner is not a fundraising event, but rather an awareness raising event, designed to bring people from all walks of life together for an afternoon of great food and entertainment.

**For more information visit [www.communitydinner.org](http://www.communitydinner.org)**

**Water Report - February 6, 2008**

**LAKE LEVELS**

<b>University Lake</b>	5 feet, 6.5 in. below full
<b>Cane Creek</b>	16 ft., 1.75 in. below full
<b>Total Availability Supply</b>	39.4% of capacity

**PRECIPITATION THIS MONTH**

<b>Jones Ferry Rd. Treatment Plant</b>	0.97 in.
<b>Cane Creek Reservoir</b>	0.52 in.
<b>Normal rainfall for Jan.</b>	3.84"

**CUSTOMER WATER DEMAND**

<b>7-Day Average</b>	7.499 million gallons
<b>30-Day Average</b>	7.514 million gallons
<b>Estimated days of water remaining</b>	assuming no further rainfall.)
186 (based on average demand)	

Source: OWASA



## Community Briefs

### Pauli Murray Awards ceremony Feb. 24

The Orange County Human Relations Commission and the Office of Human Rights and Relations will host the 2007 Pauli Murray Human Relations Awards on February 24 from 3 to 5 p.m.

The ceremony will feature musical entertainment by the Newman Music Ministry of the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish, a dance performance by the Instruments of Praise Dance Troupe, readings of the 2007 Human Rights Student Essay Contest winning essays and the recognition of the 2007 Pauli Murray Human Relations Award recipients.

The commission presents the Pauli Murray Award annually to an Orange County youth, adult and business that have served the community with distinction in the pursuit of equality, justice and human rights for all citizens.

The ceremony will be held in the Little Theater at New Hope Elementary School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the Office of Human Rights and Relations at 960-3875.

### Heart your local shelter

The Orange County Animal Shelter will hold special Valentine's Day events on February 14 and 16 to showcase adoptable animals and allow the public more opportunities to visit with pets.

On February 14, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., visitors are invited to visit the shelter to meet animals and enjoy refreshments.

On February 16, adoptable animals from the shelter will be at the Patterson Place PetSmart on Witherspoon Boulevard in Durham.

For more information, visit [www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices) or call Sarah Fallin at 967-7383.

### Not just a women's issue

The Orange County Commission for Women will observe National Women's History Month with "Domestic Violence is Not Just a Women's Issue" on March 8 from 12 to 3 p.m.

The program will begin with a catered lunch and a viewing and discussion of the film *Tough Guise*. Speakers at the event include Rita Anita Linger, executive director of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the office of human rights and relations at 960-3875.

## Community Calendar

### Special Events

#### Lunchbox Concert Series

— Thursdays, Feb 14-Mar 6. Bring lunch to the Century Center and hear live music from noon to 1pm. Free coffee provided by Open Eye Café. 100 N Greensboro St. Call 918-7385 or visit [townofcarrboro.com/rp/cc.htm](http://townofcarrboro.com/rp/cc.htm) for more info.

#### Where is the Palestinian Gandhi? Nonviolence in the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

— Joe Groves, co-director of Interfaith Peace-Builders & adjunct professor of International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University, will speak Mon, Feb 11, 7:30pm. Community Church of Chapel Hill, 106 Purefoy Rd. Call 967-5181 for more info.

**Chatham Marketplace** — Pittsboro's co-op grocery. Cooking with Love, a hands-on cooking class with the stores chef. Thu, Feb 7, 7-9:30pm. \$45. Soap-making workshop with Alan Russo. Sat, Feb 9, 2-4pm. Free. Love Songs and Brunch in the café. Music provided by local musicians Tom Maxwell & Sarah Shook. Call 542-2643 or visit [www.chatham-marketplace.coop](http://www.chatham-marketplace.coop) for more info.

#### The Vagina Monologues

presented by V-Day Chapel Hill/Carrboro 2008. Fri, Feb 8, 8pm. The ArtsCenter, 300-G E Main St. \$12 general public, \$10 ArtsCenter friends, \$7 students. Call 929-2787 or visit [www.artscenterlive.org](http://www.artscenterlive.org) for tickets. Proceeds benefit the Orange County Rape Crisis Center and the Family Violence Prevention Center of Orange County.

**Hawbridge School**, a four-year, public high school emphasizing environmental studies and the arts, invites all prospective students and their families to meet current students and teachers and view student artwork. Sat, Feb 9, 2-4pm. Saxapahaw, N.C. Call 336-376-1122 or visit [www.hawbridgeschool.org](http://www.hawbridgeschool.org) for more info.

**"AstroCosmologia"**, Emerson Waldorf High School's 4th Annual Circus, featuring gymnastics, circus skills, drumming, dancing and a marionette show. Fri, Feb 8 & Sat, Feb 9, 6:30pm. James C. Wallage Parking Deck Plaza, corner of Rosemary & Henderson streets. \$5. Call 932-1195 for info.

**"A Chocolate Affaire" 2008**, a live auction benefiting Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center, will be held Sun, Feb 10 from 2-5pm. Tickets are \$40 and include wine, coffee, cheeses, fruit and chocolate desserts. The Carolina Club, George Watts Hill Alumni Center, UNC campus. Call 401-9333 for tickets.

**Fieldwork on Mexican Migration in Tijuana and North Carolina**, a presentation by UNC-Chapel Hill post-doctoral scholar Sergio Chavez, will be given Sun, Feb 10 at 5pm. The presentation will include photographs and findings from Chavez's research in Mexico and North

Carolina and an overview of day laborers in North Carolina. Chapel Hill Institute for Cultural and Language Education. 101 E Weaver St, 3rd Floor. Visit [www.chi-cle.com](http://www.chi-cle.com) for more info.

#### Celebration of Earth and Sky

with keynote speaker Aaron Nelson. Sun, Feb 10, 2-6pm. Sponsored by Chapel Hill High School S.U.R.G.E. and The Foundation for a Sustainable Community. \$2 donation. Century Center, 100 N Greensboro St.

#### Celebrate "Darwin Day" at N.C. Botanical Garden.

Charles Darwin (and Abe Lincoln) Birthday Tour of the Garden, led by Johnny Randall, assistant director for conservation. Tue, Feb 12, 1-4pm. Free. Darwin the Botanist, a lecture and discussion about Darwin's contributions to botany led by Dr. William Kimler, associate professor of history at N.C. State University. Tue, Feb 12, 7-9pm. \$8 Botanical Garden members, \$10 others. Call 960-0522 or visit [ncbg.unc.edu](http://ncbg.unc.edu) for info or to register.

#### The Image of the Black Athlete: Icons, Scandal and the Business of Sport

— a roundtable discussion about sociopolitical challenges facing black athletes. With Hanif Omar of WCNU radio and other sports professionals. Wed, Feb 13, 7pm. Sonja Haynes Stone Center, UNC campus. Call 962-9001. Free and open to the public.

### Kids

**Toddler Time** — At the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Thursday at 4pm. For more info, call 969-3006.

**Preschool Story Time** — At the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Saturday at 10:30am. All preschoolers are invited to this free program. For more info, call 969-3006.

**ComedySportz 4 Kidz** - Games & improv for the 12 & under crowd. Saturdays, 5pm. \$10, students \$8, kids under-5 \$5. DSI Comedy Theater, 200 N Greensboro St, Ste B-11, Carr Mall, Carrboro, 338-8150, [www.dsicomedytheater.com](http://www.dsicomedytheater.com).

**Express Yourself!** - Art program for ages 3-8 & their caregivers. Weekly art projects for children & adults to explore their own creative paths; registration requested. Saturdays, 10:45-11:15 & 11:30am-noon. \$2. Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill. 933-1455, [www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org).

### Volunteers

**Meals on Wheels** — Seeks volunteers to deliver meals and/or bake simple desserts for recipients in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. For more info, call 942-2948.

**Goat House Cat Refuge** — Seeks volunteers to help with rescued cats & kittens. For more info, call Bonny at 545-2825 or email her at [brooze@embarqmail.com](mailto:brooze@embarqmail.com).

**English as a Second Language Conversation Club** seeks volunteers to talk with groups of international students Fridays from 11:30am-1:30pm. University Methodist Church on Franklin Street. Call 967-1448 or email [harwellja@bellsouth.net](mailto:harwellja@bellsouth.net).

### Health & Wellness

**Community Grief Support Group**, offered by UNC Hospitals' Bereavement Support Services. Group will focus on sharing and moving toward healing in a safe, supportive setting. Mondays through Mar 10, 6:30-8pm. United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Free and open to anyone, regardless of faith background. To enroll, contact Heidi Gessner at 966-0716 or [hgessner@unch.unc.edu](mailto:hgessner@unch.unc.edu).

**Living with Advanced/Metastatic Cancer** — A bi-weekly support group. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, 3:30-5pm. Drop-in, no charge. Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center, 111 Cloister Ct, Ste 220, Chapel Hill. 401-9333, [www.cornucopiahouse.org](http://www.cornucopiahouse.org).

**NAMI Family-To-Family Education Program** will host a series of 12 weekly classes for people who have family members with a serious mental illness. Classes offered in Chapel Hill. Contave Gove Elder, 967-5403. Classes begin Mar 4. Registration required. Email confidential inquiries to [gbelder@bellsouth.net](mailto:gbelder@bellsouth.net).

**The Compassionate Friends:** Self-help support after the death of a child. Free and open to all. Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm. Evergreen United Methodist Church. 11098 Highway 15-501.

**Feelings: "What's Appropriate and When to Say It,"** hosted by Charlie Bernacchio, professor of counseling and psychology. Thu, Jan 31, 5:30-7pm. Carrboro Town Hall, 301 W Main St. Call 942-5602 or email [peerconnections@yahoo.com](mailto:peerconnections@yahoo.com). This meeting is part of the Peer Connections Be Well! Be Fit! program.

### Museums

**Planetarium & Digital Theater Shows** - Science LIVE Demos. Ongoing. Morehead Planetarium, 250 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill. Info hotline 549-6863, office 962-1236, tickets 843-7997. Thu-Sat 10am-5pm, 6:30-9:15pm. Tickets \$5.25; \$4.25 seniors, students & children. For more info, visit [www.moreheadplanetarium.org](http://www.moreheadplanetarium.org).

**A Nursery of Patriotism: The University at War, 1861-1945.** Exhibit on war's historic impact on UNC-Chapel Hill. In the Manuscripts Dept (4th floor), Wilson Library, UNC campus, through Feb. [www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/universityatwar.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/universityatwar.html).

### Dance

**Edsel 500 Swing Dance** — Feb 9, lesson at 7:30pm, dance at 8pm. With music by Rockability. Visit [www.TriangleSwingDance.org](http://www.TriangleSwingDance.org) for more info.

**Havana Nights** — Cuban Salsa. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10pm. Mansion 462, 462 W Franklin St, Chapel Hill, 967-7913, [www.mansion462.net](http://www.mansion462.net).

**Salsa/Mambo** - 3rd Saturdays, lesson 8pm, dance 8:30-11pm. \$7, 358-4201, [salsa\\_4u2@yahoo.com](mailto:salsa_4u2@yahoo.com). Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 4702 Garrett Rd, Durham (Hillsborough).

**Ballroom - Dancing.** 4th & 5th Thursdays, 7-9:30pm, \$2. 933-8982. Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill, 968-2076.

**Contra Dance** — presented by the Carolina Song & Dance Association. With music and live caller Bree Kalb. Fri, Feb 15, 7:30pm workshop, 8pm dance. \$8 donation requested. Please carry a pair of clean, soft-soled, smooth-soled shoes. Call 967-9948 or visit [www.cdsda-dance.org](http://www.cdsda-dance.org).

### Literary Discussion / Open Mic

**Open Mic** - For poetry, music & short fiction. Tuesdays at 7pm, Market Street Books & Maps, Southern Village, 610 Market St, Chapel Hill. 933-5111, [www.marketstreetbooks.com](http://www.marketstreetbooks.com).

**Warren Rochelle** will read from his novel *Harvest of Changelings*. Thu, Feb 7, 3:30pm. Donovan Lounge, Greenlaw Hall, UNC campus.

### Other

**Public Art 360:** A Symposium from Seven Perspectives — a national convention to address the functional and aesthetic interaction among public art, profession design disciplines, private development and government. Registration for the April symposium is \$60 before Feb 22, \$70 after that date. Visit [www.publicartcollaborative.org](http://www.publicartcollaborative.org) for more info.

**VITA**, a free tax assistance program for low- to middle-income clients runs through Apr. For enrollment requirements or more info visit [www.co.orange.nc.us/aging/VITA.asp](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/aging/VITA.asp).

**Introduction to Buddhism.** Wednesdays through March 5, 7:30-9pm. Piedmont KTC Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Center. 35 Perkins Dr, Chapel Hill. Call 933-2138 or visit [www.piedmontkctc.org](http://www.piedmontkctc.org) for more info.

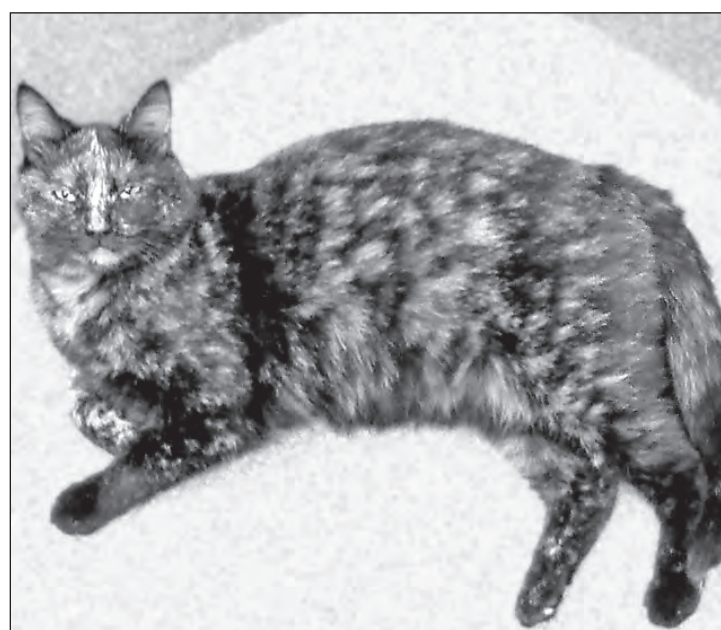
**Carolina Digital Library and Archives Open House & Reception.** Wed, Feb 13. 1-6pm; reception begins at 5pm. Pleasants Family Assembly Room, Wilson Library, UNC campus. Free and open to the public. Call 962-4207 or visit [www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2008/CDLA.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2008/CDLA.html) for more info.

**Weekly Peace Vigils.** Fridays, 5-6pm. At the corner of Elliot Rd & E. Franklin St. Call 942-2535 for info.

## Got a Community Event you'd like us to know about?

Send your submissions to [calendar@carrborocitizen.com](mailto:calendar@carrborocitizen.com)

## PETS OF THE WEEK



**APS OF ORANGE COUNTY** — Hey there! My name is Mattie and I'm a female Tortie, just 2 years young! I play around my scratchy post when I am not sleeping on top of it. I love all toys and shiny objects. Even though I am playful, I am a mellow lover also. I get along harmoniously with other felines and canines! Visit me today at Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr Blvd, Chapel Hill, or call 967-7383. You can also see me online at [www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp).



**ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES** — Virginia is a 2-year-old Jack Russell Terrier that came from a Puppy Mill case. Because of the limited socialization she received in that situation, she is a little scared and overwhelmed by new things, including people. Quick movements and noises will scare this sweet girl, so she will need a calm, adult home where she can continue to build confidence and learn how to simply be a dog! She will do great in a home with another dog, as she seems to love other dogs and will look to them to build confidence and trust in other household members! Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr Blvd, Chapel Hill, or call 967-7383. You can also see her online at [www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp).



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## Carrboro FARMERS' MARKET

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SATURDAY MARKET: 8 a.m. - Noon

### What's at the market?

Check out what's at the Carrboro Year-Round Farmers' Market...

Just to name a few... Carrots, collards, turnips, beets, sweet potato, chard, kale, spinach, hydroponic bibb lettuce, pachoy, arugula, savoy cabbage, mustard greens, butternut squash, broccoli, acorn squash, red kale, cauliflower, radishes, rosemary starters, pansy starters, baked goods (including vegan and gluten free options), breads, jams, wines, grass fed beef, pastured pork, pastured chicken, grass fed lamb, buffalo, sausage, chorizo, ground bison, raw milk cheeses, smoked mozzarella, goat cheese, jams, jellies, pottery, hats, rugs, and more!



### Recipe of the week A NEW TAKE ON COLLARDS

#### Ingredients

- 2 bunches of collards
- \_ medium yellow onion (sliced julienne)
- 6 cloves of garlic (minced)
- 1 tin of anchovies
- 4 tablespoons of apple cider vinegar
- \_ cup water
- salt and pepper to taste

#### Procedure

Rinse collards thoroughly and remove stems. Sauté onion in a large skillet with lid or stock pot until tender over medium heat. Add garlic and 1 tin of anchovies (minced). Sauté with onions briefly. Tear collards into medium sized pieces and add to the pot and mix with the other ingredients. Turn the heat down to medium-low. Add the vinegar and \_ cup water. Salt and pepper to taste. Keep in mind the anchovies add a lot of salt, so be careful not to over salt. Stir occasionally; make sure that all the liquid doesn't boil off in the pot. Add more water if needed. Continue to cook down the greens until its ready to eat.

Total cooking time: 15 minutes

\*Available at Market



### FLORA FROM PAGE 1

of the smaller sparrow species was responsible for this nest. Hopefully, the accompanying photographs are enough for proper identification of either or both by a *Citizen* reader.

The lower nest drew our attention to the burgundy color of the rose stems securing it. Sure signs of spring are the deepening colors of the previous year's stem growth on many species of trees and shrubs. Like the Carolina rose, *Sourwood*, *Oxydendron arboreum*, and Silky Dogwood, *Cornus amomum*, turn burgundy red. The yellow green stems of streamside willows are easy to spot at long distances. The polished yellow-green branch tips of the common sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, are subtle, but well worth a closer look. On your walks, be alert for other tree and shrub stem colors during these late-winter weeks.

Swollen buds are another sign of approaching spring. We observed that the tiny round flower buds of spice-bush, *Lindera benzoin*, are quite swollen, a prelude to clusters of little yellow flowers that cast a yellow glow across floodplain forests in March before leaves emerge. More noticeable are the swelling red buds of Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*. The ef-



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Thorny red stems of Carolina Rose secure a bird nest two feet above the ground.

fect will be spectacular in mid-February when those maple flowers are viewed against the blue sky.

If you don't already regularly enjoy outdoor walks, begin them now during this warm spell to see how many other signs of spring you can find. Don't let the cold weather that will surely return keep you inside. Even in bitter cold, you will discover that these true signs of spring are hardly persistent.

### RECENTLY FROM PAGE 1

"We toured a sustainable-housing development (Pacifica) that includes solar panels for energy and collecting rain water," Sloan said.

"We modeled a building after Smith Middle School, the most green-friendly building in Chapel Hill," Hertzberg said, mentioning the light-reflecting roof.

"We've all become a lot more conscious in our everyday lives," Hitt said.

Greenberg initiated the Celebration of Earth and Sky several years ago but this is the first time the venue has been away from the school. He hopes that by being held in Car-

roro's center, more community members will see the students' work and initiate dialog with them.

"This gives high school students a chance to talk to people about their work and meet experts in the field and maybe sign on with a professional for service learning hours," Greenberg said. "There are careers that students can go on to that involve sustainability." This teacher is exposing them to that possibility.

Meet the students and see some clever ideas. The suggested admission price of \$2 will go to Students United for a Responsible Global Environment.

Contact Valarie Schwartz at 923-3746 or valariekays@mac.com

### Annual Agricultural Summit Feb. 12

The 10th Annual Orange County Agricultural Summit will be held Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Orange Enterprises Building on Valley Forge Road in Hillsborough.

The summit will provide agricultural producers in Orange County and surrounding counties with strategies for preserving their farms during a time of agricultural transition. In addition, guest speaker Rep. David Price will discuss the Farm Bill, the drought and other agricultural issues.

Local growers will discuss supplying local businesses in need of producers, including Whole Foods, Weaver Street Market and Lindley Mills, whose representatives will be available at the summit.

Registration will take place from 8:30 to 9 a.m. A sponsored lunch made with locally grown products will be served. Seating is limited. To reserve a spot, contact the Orange County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension at 245-2050 no later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 8.

### IN SEASON

TACO TRUCKS DON'T SNITCH!

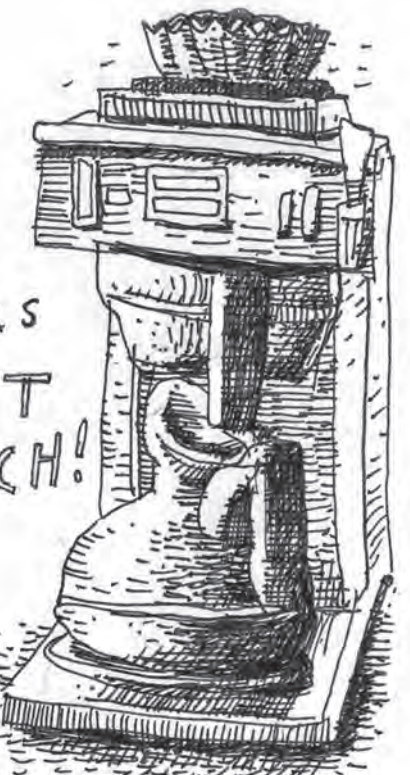


ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ

Chapel Hill High School science teacher Rob Greenberg, center, guides students (left to right) Jess Hitt, Natalie Archer, Louisa Sloan and Andrew Hertzberg through their project for the Celebration of Earth and Sky this Sunday at Carrboro Century Center.

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SOL PRESENCE SHEBA  
OCEANSTEAK SUDANCHAIRS  
COUBASTE EROICAN SNAP  
WHEAL SHE ENDOW TESS

**MARK TRAIL**

THOUGH IT HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED AS A SAVAGE MAN-KILLER, THE GORILLA IS USUALLY A SHY, MILD-TEMPERED BEAST

IT HAD BEEN THOUGHT THAT PREMEDITATED USE OF TOOLS TO ACCOMPLISH A TASK WAS RESTRICTED TO HUMANS AND THE SMALLER, MORE AGILE CHIMPANZEES...

BUT RECENTLY IN A SANCTUARY A YOUNG GORILLA WAS SEEN SMASHING PALM NUTS BETWEEN ROCKS USING THE "HAMMER AND ANVIL" TECHNIQUE, CONSIDERED AMONG THE MOST COMPLEX TOOL-USE BEHAVIOR

THE ANIMAL STARTED CRACKING NUTS SPONTANEOUSLY AND WAS NOT INFLUENCED BY MAN

RESEARCHERS SAY THIS BEHAVIOR MEANS THAT GORILLAS HAVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT THAN WE THOUGHT

GORILLAS IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN OBSERVED USING SIMPLE TOOLS, LIKE USING A STICK TO TEST THE DEPTH OF WATER IN A POND OR USING A SMALL TREE TRUNK TO MAKE A BRIDGE

OCCASIONALLY IT WILL RELIEVE ITS PENT-UP EMOTIONS AND PUT INTRUDERS TO FLIGHT

SCIENTISTS BELIEVE WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT GORILLAS CAN DO, AND WHAT THAT SAYS ABOUT EVOLUTION

*Jack Green*



FOR THE RECORD

## Schools take a stand

In a year where election posturing is fueling an already overheated debate over immigration policy, most officials not in the running are inclined to fly low.

So credit the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education for having the guts to step into the debate over whether undocumented individuals are eligible to receive a community college education in the state of North Carolina.

On the school board's agenda at this Thursday's meeting (Feb. 7) is a resolution in support of the decision by community colleges system president Martin Lancaster to extend a community college education to this state's undocumented residents.

In most cases, these are people who came to this country as infants or small children. In many cases, this is really the only country they've known. In all cases, they have worked hard enough in school to take their education to the next level. That is a value this state has endorsed since its inception.

In the opening sentence of the North Carolina Constitution's article on education, it is stated, "the means of education shall forever be encouraged." A little later on is the stipulation that "equal opportunities shall be provided for all students."

The Supreme Court of the United States has upheld that undocumented children are entitled to a K-12 education. That is the law of the land. Extending that right of access to education further is a logical step and fits with the long-held values of our state.

We applaud any public body willing to make that case, especially in today's climate.

## Trucking toward a solution

The board of aldermen Tuesday night indicated that they'd like to take a look at the town ordinance that caused zoning violation letters to go to businesses that allow the taco trucks to use their property. A fair reading of that move is that the trucks will be allowed to continue to operate.

Last week, as the story and reaction unfolded, a couple of issues were raised that are notable. First, there seemed to be a quick leap in some people's minds that violations had to do with health and food-handling rules. In fact, they had nothing to do with food-safety or public-health issues. We checked, and the trucks are in compliance with county rules, which require them to operate in conjunction with a licensed inspected commissary.

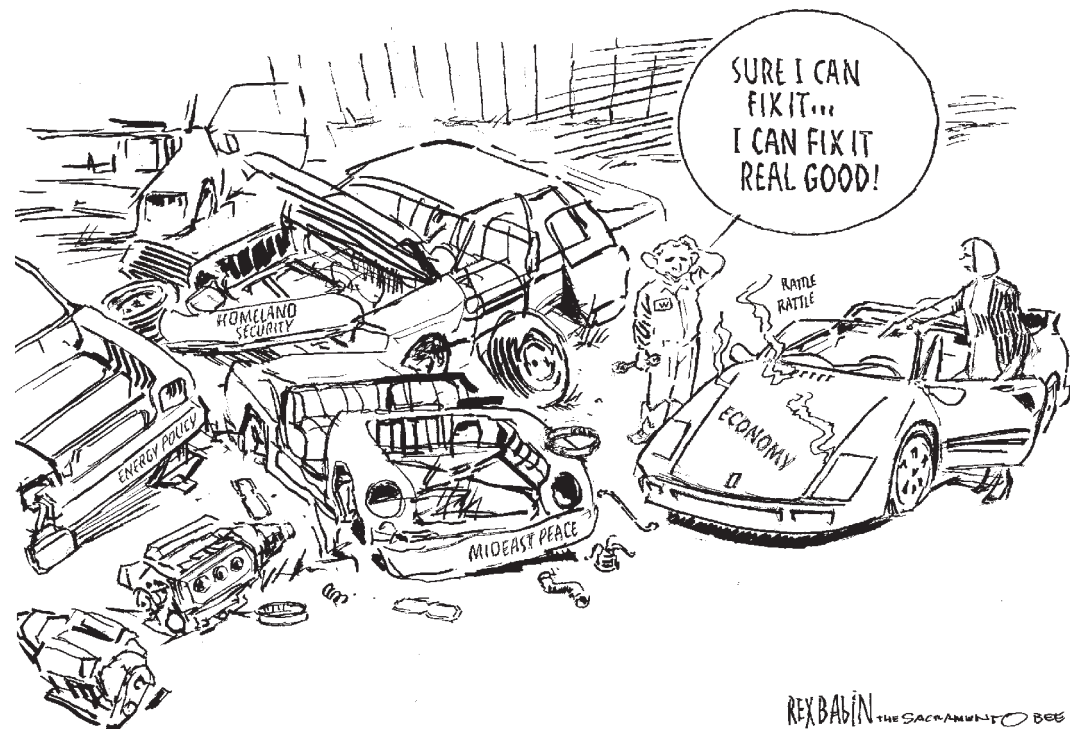
The second notable reaction, and the most disturbing one, was that somehow because these trucks are serving food indigenous to Latin America, there is an illegal-immigration angle. This just underlines how quick some people are to voice their resentment against a specific group that, as we said in the editorial above, has been so effectively vilified by the jingoists. We doubt that if a couple of kebab wagons or a somosa cart had opened in the downtown there would be a similar outcry.

## Get outside

A new major study by the Nature Conservancy — soon to be published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences — confirms that there has been a steady and steep worldwide decline in the amount of time we spend in nature.

The concern is that as we become a more urbanized planet and spend less and less time in the natural world, our connection with it and our commitment to it is decreasing as well.

Not sure if there's a long-term solution to this problem, but if you'd like to save yourself and your children from this fate there is a tiny button on your remote that can actually make the television/DVR/gamebox stop. The mid-week weather certainly offered ample reward for anyone willing to press said button and venture outside. And, as our Flora columnist Ken Moore points out this week, there is growing evidence that a rather colorful outdoor event call "spring" may occur again this year. Be sure not to miss it.



## Racism within our walls?

**DANIEL MATCHAR**

If you are a student at Carrboro High, a teacher or administrator at Carrboro High, have a student at Carrboro High, or have ever heard of Carrboro High, there is a high probability that you have heard about the "racial tension" at the school. To clear things up, I would like to say that I do not believe that my school has a racism problem. Well, at least our problems are no worse than any other high school in the district. All of the hype from the January 17th fight has left my school with potentially negative and long-lasting repercussions. It's sad for me to see CHS be labeled "the racist school" because my belief is that the incident was isolated to a few ignorant students.

In an attempt to turn things around, I hope that this negative situation has taught some lessons. I have learned (in greater detail) the domino effect that the use of racial slurs can have on a body of students. The situation began with three students, but now, a mere three-weeks after the fight, an entire community is involved.

My hope is that CHS can move past what happened and, hopefully, come out a little more socially aware of racism. Ironically, I think that if things are handled appropriately, CHS can come out being the "least racist" school in the district.

*Daniel Matchar is a junior at Carrboro High School.*

**ANTONIO G. POWELL**

Is there racism in the walls of our school, are there really kids that hate each other based on the color of their classmates' skin, and, if so, why is it even still happening in the year 2008?

A fight recently took place at our school between two black students and one white student. Was it a prejudice in-

*Ironically, I think that if things are handled appropriately, CHS can come out being the "least racist" school in the district.*

cident or was the word "nigger" simply used to hurt the two black students and as an opportunity for the other student involved to draw attention to himself?

I believe that it was an isolated incident and that the word was just meant to hurt or get a reaction. I don't believe it was directed toward the black students as a means of prejudice. If more people actually knew what the word meant, then I bet it would have never been said in the first place.

Really, most students can't even tell you what a "nigger"

is; and if they could tell you, they would say it meant an ignorant person. That may be true to some definitions of the word, but a "nigger" is actually a Negro, or a person of the Negroid race, and also any group of dark-skinned people mostly coming from Africa. I also want to say that the student knew exactly what he was doing when he said the word, because it wasn't the first time. The first time he said the word he said it to another black student before the Jan. 17 incident occurred.

I don't believe this is racism, but why is this still even going on? I mean, there is no purpose for the word; there is no use for it anymore. I don't say this just toward students of races other than blacks, but to black students as well.

If we say it, then it is like giving the right to other people to say the word, and they probably figure that it doesn't hurt them anymore because they use it themselves. I also think that the word is used so much because people don't understand its true meaning. All we know is when it is said to us negatively and directly to hurt us, we are supposed to defend ourselves. And to think the whole incident went down on MLK's birthday, the man that tried to bring the black and white races together.

*Antonio G. Powell is a junior at Carrboro High School.*

## The real class warfare continues

**CHRIS FITZSIMON**

The post-mortems on the Edwards campaign continue, with most political analysts attributing the failure of his candidacy to his embrace of what the pundits insist is class warfare, the focus on the country's staggering and growing economic inequality.

A secondary analysis focuses on Edwards' ambition. A prominent North Carolina columnist wishes Edwards had stayed in the Senate instead of beginning his first run for the presidency during his first term.

It's not clear if he feels the same way about the two Democratic candidates still in the race, both of whom are also serving their first term in the Senate and seeking the White House.

But it almost always comes back to a version of class warfare that was Edwards' problem, that aggressively challenging the aspects of the economic system that expand the gulf between the rich and poor is somehow a declaration of war against corporations and the wealthy.

Ironically, the critique of Edwards' economic policies comes the same week that President Bush released the details of his budget proposal

to Congress, a plan that slashes funding for programs that help the poor while giving more than a trillion dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest one percent of the nation's households over the next ten years.

There's your class warfare, though not many pundits can seem to bring themselves to use the term to describe the budget that way. And Bush's budget is not a declaration of class war as much as it is a continuation of it, the latest proposal from this administration to give breaks to the wealthy and corporations at the expense of people struggling every day to make ends meet.

Bush wants to not only make deep cuts to federal programs that protect the environment, control the spread of infectious diseases and provide heating assistance for poor and elderly families, he wants to reduce the amount of federal dollars sent to states to help pay for initiatives that include vocational education, worker training, family services and public safety programs like community policing and preventing violence against women.

He can't claim the cuts have anything to do with fiscal responsibility. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities says that the budget Bush sent

to Congress would add \$547 billion to the federal deficit between 2008 and 2013, largely because of the tax breaks for the wealthy.

The center calculates that North Carolina would lose almost \$500 million in the next fiscal year after adjusting for inflation. That means state policymakers would either have to cut services to the poor and elderly in the middle of the economic downturn or find state money to replace the federal funding. And that does not include cuts in Medicaid that Bush is proposing.

The state budget is healthy, but no one expects much of a surplus and there is little appetite in an election year to raise taxes to replace federal dollars. That means the bottom line for North Carolina in Bush's budget is fewer services for the most vulnerable people in the state at the very time the need for the services is expanding.

Tax cuts for millionaires, less help for families trying to lift themselves out of poverty. That's Bush's plan in a nutshell and it's real class warfare at its devastating worst.

*Chris Fitzsimon is director of N.C. Policy Watch. www.ncpolicywatch.com*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## With apologies to Mr. Wolfe

Now that he's not working the campaign trail, John Edwards and family are a lot more visible around town. He was close to courtside in the comfy seats at the Smith Center during last week's Boston College game and he's been making the rounds lately to thank the staff and hometown volunteers and supporters.

And if you were strolling by Milltown the other night, you might have heard the former senator — or someone who sounds just like him — belting out a Bon Jovi number during the karaoke challenge at a party for the staff. The tune was "Who Says You Can't Go Home." Here's the chorus:

*Who says you can't go home  
There's only one place they call me one of their own  
Just a hometown boy, born a rolling stone, who says you can't go home  
Who says you can't go back, been all around the world and as a matter of fact  
There's only one place left I want to go, who says you can't go home  
It's alright, it's alright, it's alright, it's alright  
Indeed. Welcome home, John.*

## Campaign finance

Nothing wrong with a nice dinner, but when a candidate in a local race drops \$6K on a fundraiser at La Rez, well, it's gonna get noticed.

There are all kinds of tidbits of information in the local campaign finance reports if you peruse the recent filings on the OC Board of Elections website. Of the recent filings, Chapel Hill Town Council candidate Matt Czajkowski's was by far the most interesting. The largely self-financed candidate, who edged out Cam Hill by 60 votes, dropped \$5979.17 for an early December "victory party and fundraiser" at the lovely Rosemary Street establishment. That's a hefty chunk of the roughly \$20,000 the newcomer spent overall and three times the amount he raised from contributors throughout the race.

## Friends of Bill?

It wasn't lost on several observers that a board of aldermen item to schedule breakfast with the state legislative delegation included a yes or no poll about extending Rep. William Faison (D-Cedar Grove) an invitation. Not sure if someone at the town knows that Faison is simply not a breakfast eater (he's 0 for 3 returning our phone calls, so I didn't bother asking) and doesn't want to force him. But the item did cause some residents to wonder if there was a move to snub Faison, who presents a couple of precincts in northern Carrboro, over his support for a bill to de-annex The Highlands and that derailing last session of the town's campaign finance bill.

A few aldermen objected to the poll saying it didn't seem right and noting that Faison had attended similar events before. So, the poll was removed and Faison, like the rest of the delegation, is on the invite list.

## HKoj

The acronym really reminds me of something you'd buy at an IKEA, but the Historic Thousands on Jones Street is an annual gathering in Raleigh that brings together a coalition of groups fighting for civil rights, a better health care system, labor issues, a cleaner environment and a number of other causes.

The event is Saturday with a rally at Chavis Park at 11 a.m. and a march to the General Assembly at 12:30 p.m.

More than 5,000 people representing 75 organizations attended last year.

—KIRK ROSS

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## North Carolina needs to rethink the death penalty

**STEPHEN DEAR & DIANN RUST-TIERNEY**

Recently, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, crime victims' advocates and both Republican and Democratic state legislators in New Jersey worked together to pass legislation to repeal that state's death penalty. Gov. Jon Corzine signed the bill into law last month, making New Jersey the first state to legislatively repeal the death penalty since Iowa and West Virginia did so back in 1965.

Despite some significant reforms, death penalty systems in other states, such as North Carolina, remain awash in blunders, racial and class bias and runaway expenses, and are long overdue for systematic reviews by their legislatures.

In New Jersey, a blue ribbon commission was appointed to thoroughly study the pros and cons of the state's death penalty and to recommend what measures could be taken to fix it. The commission was made up of victims' rights advocates, prosecutors and other law enforcement representatives, a retired state Supreme Court justice and many others.

The study found the death penalty to be a deeply flawed public policy and, in the words of one state senator who in 1982 voted for reinstating the death penalty, it is a "false and ineffective choice for taxpayers

and residents who have lost loved ones. It has for too long been sustained by mythology and fiction, propped up by outdated rhetoric when courage and common sense would have served us better."

The commission further found that the death penalty squanders millions in tax dollars, does not serve a legitimate purpose such as crime deterrence, delays healing for murder victims' loved ones and carries no guarantee against the execution of innocent people.

Other states have begun to rethink our nation's four-century experiment with capital punishment. The record of North Carolina's death penalty is far worse than New Jersey's ever was. North Carolina, however, has never had a comprehensive evaluation of its death penalty system commissioned by the Legislature.

How bad do things have to get before our leaders deal with them?

Just this month, North Carolina declined to retry Jonathan Hoffman, a convicted murderer who had been granted a new trial. He was the state's sixth death row inmate to be exonerated. Hoffman, an African-American, was condemned to die by an all-white jury in Union County for killing a white jewelry store owner, Danny Cook.

No physical evidence linked Hoffman to the crime. Hoffman's prosecutors, Ken Honeycutt and Scott Brewer, withheld in-

formation about deals they made with prosecution witnesses, what the N.C. State Bar has called egregious misconduct. Honeycutt is known for having awarded his staff lapel pins in the shape of a noose when he won death penalty cases.

Last month, a judge ordered a new trial for another death row prisoner, Glen Chapman, saying in this Catawba County case that police withheld evidence and lost or destroyed documents, that Chapman received ineffective assistance of counsel and that one of the women Chapman is accused of killing was likely not murdered at all.

Executions are on hold in North Carolina while courts decide whether the N.C. Medical Board can ban doctors from participating in executions and whether the Council of State improperly approved the state's lethal injection protocol. Much more needs to be considered.

Since North Carolina reinstated the death penalty in 1977, more than 15,000 people have been murdered here. Based on past studies, taxpayers appear to have spent on the death penalty tens of millions more than they would have on life imprisonment without parole. For that, 388 people have been sentenced to death here; 180 of them were later removed from death row and 43 people have been executed.

The General Assembly should suspend executions until it can resolve myriad questions. To begin with: How were six innocent people, who collectively spent more than three decades on death row, sentenced to death in the first place? Are there any more innocents condemned to die and, if so, why? Why are the worst of the worst almost never found on death row? Is justice served by sentencing the severely mentally ill to die? How does our system allow people to be sentenced to death because of their race or the victims' race? Why does our system repeatedly allow prosecutors to win death cases by breaking laws and acting unethically? How many more millions of dollars are North Carolina taxpayers going to be asked to spend on Old South justice while these problems go unsolved?

In New Jersey, regardless of initial views on capital punishment, a panel of experts and a bipartisan group of lawmakers faced up to these types of questions. The onus is on those who support North Carolina's death penalty to confront these questions with the same honesty, openness and courage.

*Stephen Dear is executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. Diann Rust-Tierney is the executive director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.*

## OBITUARIES

### Tracy Teague Hackney

Tracy Teague Hackney, 71, of Carrboro died Tuesday, February 5th, 2008 at his home.

Surviving are his wife Alice Lockamy Hackney, three children — Jessica Hackney Williams and husband Ricky, Camilla Hackney, Tracy T. Hackney, Jr. and wife Julie, grandchildren Bailey Hackney and Jacob

Williams, and a sister Trillie Hackney Sparrow and husband Lindy.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Tracy's life at the Carrboro United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 9th at twelve noon.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Prayer Garden of Carrboro United Methodist Church are requested.

Arrangements made by the Cremation Society of the Carolinas. Online condolences can be made at [www.cremnc.com](http://www.cremnc.com).

### Martha Kathryn Smith

Martha Kathryn Smith, 90 died on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill. Mrs. Smith was a longtime resident of Carolina Meadows in Chapel Hill, NC.

Kay was born March 24, 1917 in Hamilton, Ohio to Ida James and James Millspaugh. She was the loving and caring wife of Edwin James Smith, who preceded her in death, December, 2005.

She was a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill and was an active community volunteer at Carolina Meadows up until her health began failing. She will be remembered as a friendly caring friend and mother.

Surviving are son James Lawrence Smith and wife Nancy Crewdson Smith of Durham and grandchildren Betsy and Gregory Smith.

Friends may visit the family at a memorial service on Saturday, February 9 at 11:00am at the Carolina Meadows auditorium. In lieu of flowers contributions may be directed to Christ United Methodist Church, Chapel Hill, NC or the Carolina Meadows Residents Fund.

Arrangements are made by the Cremation Society of the Carolinas.

## LETTERS

### What's the fuss?

I'm a little surprised by the dust-up that has occurred because of Carrboro's taco wagons. They haven't come from out of nowhere. These sorts of food stands have been around forever. I don't know the specifics of Carrboro's licensing laws, but I feel certain that these people are paying payroll and sales taxes and that they have had to buy some sorts of business permits. As a chef in Orange County (I'm just across your eastern border), I have every confidence that our health department is as strict on them as they are on everyone else. True, they don't have hood fans and bathrooms, but they don't need them. They are take-out places, with tiny cooking appliances. The wagons themselves are clearly not as expensive as a building; but just as clearly, they are not cheap.

When you go to a taco wagon, you probably had no intention of going to a sit-down restaurant to begin with. You are in a hurry, you have a carful of children, you just realized that you'd better eat something quick after a night on the town. Ditto, if you are trying to economize, you don't go where you'll have to tip twenty percent and pay for a markup on drinks. You stop at the taco wagon and pick up a six pack on the way home. If people occasionally decide to patronize one of these wagons because of their novelty, fine. This area, in the last ten or so years, has become known as a serious food destination. We're always in some food or travel magazine. It seems to me that another interesting dining choice can only enhance this reputation to the advantage of us all.

—Bill Smith, Chapel Hill

## HFCS: A ban worth getting excited over

**REBEKAH L. COWELL**

I was thrilled to read Weaver Street took a stance against high-fructose corn syrup!

This January — new year, new resolutions, yadda, yadda — Weaver Street issued a newsletter stating that they would no longer carry any products that had HFCS in them — hip-hip-hooray for Weaver Street, right?

Well, I certainly thought so. I mean, now instead of having to read labels and carefully comb the aisles, I can be assured everything I drop into my cart is HFCS FREE — meaning it takes some of the work out of my grocery shopping, which is a wonderful thing when I'm toting along a very busy toddler who does not appreciate my efforts on her behalf — nor all that label reading!

I've been polling friends and neighbors and getting feedback from them on the radical new developments over at the Weave.

Seems some folks don't appreciate the loss of Orangina

— in fact, one friend eschewed Weaver Street's ban as something akin to free speech, and book burnings, and, oh god, we don't need to go there! Most everyone didn't mind the removal of beets from the salad bar. I have a faint suspicion beets are not a make-it or break-it type of food.... I could be wrong....

So for everyone who wants to know why? Weaver Street has taken a stance against HFCS because they are committed to our community. You see, unlike white sugar, HFCS is digested differently when we consume it. High-fructose corn syrup is an additive that was put into use in the 1970s. It has now been discovered to go straight to your liver where it releases (get this!) an enzyme that instructs your body to store fat! The authorities on this research are now claiming it has aided the rise in obesity and type 2 diabetes. Bottom line, HFCS is an artificial additive that our bodies cannot properly break down and digest. Furthermore, HFCS is in more products than not. I challenge

you to go to Harris Teeter and randomly pick up groceries and read the labels — ketchup, pickles, crackers, cereals and so on. What Weaver Street has done for me and you as informed consumers is take the guesswork out of purchasing HFCS-free foods. Back in the 1980s, my mother herself was on an organic kick and would only use honey to sweeten our foods. I'm not proposing such extreme measures, and I certainly like to use my sugar for baking and (ahem) coffee. But I think this type of consciousness about the foods/sugars we ingest is going to be vital for making our children's futures healthy.

Good for Weaver Street and, hey guys, you can get your Orangina over at Whole Foods!

*Rebekah Cowell is a mother, writer and graduate of UNC who resides in North Chatham.*

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**February 21 - The Bradshaw Quartet**  
The Bradshaw Quartet consists of Charles Bradshaw, Matthew Busch and Brad Kitner. The quartet will showcase selected jazz standards, new interpretations of rhythm and blues and pop classics and original compositions.

**February 28 - Joe Woodson**  
Singer and songwriter Joe Woodson has been an entertainer for over 25 years. Music of all kinds were played around the house, but acoustic music, specifically gospel and folk, have stayed in Joe's blood.

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## Schools celebrate black history

By Susan Dickson  
Staff Writer

Schools across the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district are recognizing Black History Month with read-ins, discussions and more.

At all district schools, black community leaders, students, teachers and others read to classes as part of a nationwide read-in on Monday.

"That's sort of one unifying event," said Stephanie Knott, assistant superintendent for community relations with Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

At Carrboro Elementary School, Mildred Council – more commonly known as Mama Dip – read to second graders, while Rev. David Henderson read to fifth graders. Other guests – including former teachers, school board members and district office staff – read to each of the school's classes throughout the day.

The school also held a read-in Tuesday evening, with guest readers, a pizza dinner and door prizes.

According to Knott, the district will also host a community dialog for middle and high school students, their parents and other community members to facilitate discussion of the film *The Great Debaters*. The movie recounts the true story of the 1930s Wiley College debate team, which was one of the first to break the color barrier by debating teams from white colleges.

The event will be held on February 24, from 2 to 4 p.m., at Smith Middle School. Those planning on attending should go see the movie before the event, as it will not be shown at the dialog.



PHOTO BY CARRBORO ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AMANDA CRISP  
Voncille Fearington, former teacher assistant at Carrboro Elementary, reads to Ms. Williams' kindergarten class at Carrboro Elementary School.

"We have also produced a thinking guide with some questions about the movie itself," Knott said, adding that the dialog was modeled after a Chapel Hill Public Library Foundation program in which individuals read books and came together for community discussion.

In addition to read-ins and other school events, the district has developed lesson plans and frameworks for teachers to help deepen students' understanding of cultural groups.

## Lunch Menus

FEB. 8-14

Every meal is served with a choice of milk. Breakfast is served daily.

### ELEMENTARY

Friday — Pork Egg Roll w/ Rice; Turkey & Cheese Wrap; Tossed Salad w/ Dressing; Chilled Apricots; Chocolate Pudding

Monday — Chicken Nuggets w/ BBQ Sauce & Wheat Roll; Beef Tace w/ Salsa; Steamed Carrots; Apples Halves  
Tuesday — Chicken Fajita w/ Salsa; Hot Dog on a Bun; "Fun on the Run"; Mixed Vegetables; Chilled Pears

Wednesday — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Pork Rib-B-Q on a Bun; Broccoli Cuts; Apricots

Thursday — O'Muffin; Oven Baked Chicken w/ Wheat Roll; Grilled Cheese Sandwich; "Fun on the Run"; Green Beans; Fresh Banana

### MIDDLE & HIGH

Friday — Chicken Nuggets w/ BBQ Sauce and Wheat Roll; Double Cheeseburger w/ Lettuce & Tomato; Sweet Yellow Corn; Baked Beans; Fresh Apples

Monday — Cheese Ravioli w/ Garlic Bread; Steak & Cheese Sandwich; Green Beans; Tossed Salad w/ Dressing; Fresh Orange

Tuesday — Fishwich; Beef Taco w/ Salsa; Sweet Yellow Corn; Chilled Fruit Cocktail

Wednesday — Chicken Nuggets w/ BBQ Sauce and Wheat Roll; Hot Dog on a Bun; Broccoli Cuts; Chilled Pears

Thursday — Beef Chili w/ Crackers; Pork Rib-B-Q on a Bun; Mixed Vegetables; Fresh Apple

## School Briefs

### Energy All Around Us!

The UNC Department of physics and astronomy will hold the 8th Annual Physics Demo Show, Energy All Around Us! On March 1 at 2 p.m.

The show will address questions such as: Why do we need energy? Where can we find energy? How can we conserve energy? Physics professors and graduate students will perform fun physics demonstrations.

The event is fun and educational and is suited for all ages. The show will be held in Room 215 of Phillips Hall on the UNC campus and is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dan Burke at dburke@physics.unc.edu. Seating is limited to 150 people, and groups of 10 or more should contact Burke ahead of time.

### Flower power

The Triangle United Way organized volunteers to redo flowerbeds at Seawell Elementary School and observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Volunteers included:  
• Seawell Elementary representatives Jill, Colin, Graham, Benjamin and Truman Austin; David Wilson; Kathy and Elise Matera; Julie, Gabi and Mikayla Brennan; Deborah, Adina and Avital Hirsch; James, Haley and Emily Easthom; Shilpa and Vatsal Pearkh; Celeste Mayer; and Anita Hawks;

- Blue Ribbon Youth Leadership Institute representatives Joyce Toomer; Ebony Tart; Christy Ogu; Deandre Coward; David Cunningham; Jonathan Smith; and Brandon Walker;
- New Comers Club of Greater Chapel Hill representatives Charlotte and Stan Henshaw; Lilli Lee; Richard Glover; and John Kent; and
- Beth Popelka of Hidden Voices and AmeriCorps.

### Teachers awarded grants

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation recently awarded grants to 12 local teachers for the renewal of their national certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

The teachers received substantive grants toward the \$1,150 renewal fee. More than 200 teachers in the district have obtained the national certification.

National certification is voluntary, while state certification is required. In North Carolina, teachers who apply to obtain national certification for the first time have their fees paid for by the state, but certification renewal is not covered.

### Carrboro open house

Carrboro Elementary School will host an open house tonight (Thursday) for families of students who were redistricted to the school for next year.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education approved a redistricting plan for elementary school students last spring to prepare for the opening of Morris Grove Elementary School this fall.

The open house will start at 6:30 p.m. in the Carrboro Elementary auditorium with a presentation and reception.

### Drug awareness workshops

The Drug and Alcohol Awareness Team and the Chapel Hill Police Department will sponsor a series of workshops on parent education awareness of teen alcohol and drug issues.

CHPD crisis counselor Matt Sullivan will lead the workshops, which will provide information on how to keep teens safe from the harmful consequences of substance use. All sessions will be held at 7 p.m. on the following dates:

- Feb. 11, Phillips Middle School;
- Feb. 20, McDougle Middle School;
- Mar. 6, Carrboro High School; and
- Mar. 11, Smith Middle School.

All sessions will contain the same material, so parents should pick the date and location that is most convenient for them. The workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, call 942-3300 or email dalepratt-wilson@nc.rr.com.

### Glenwood awarded grants

Teachers at Glenwood Elementary School recently received a small grant from the Chapel

Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation and the Orange County Arts Council for classes in Chinese calligraphy.

Art teacher Deborah Hallam and the intermediate grades dual-language program teachers were awarded the grant. Artist Jinxu Alice Zhao, who led the classes, will complete a six-week residency at the school on Friday.

### Middle schools awarded grants

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation has awarded four grants to fund projects at Phillips and Smith middle schools.

With a matching grant from the Orange County Arts Commission, the foundation funded the revival of the literary magazine *Skywriting* at Phillips Middle School. The publication features poetry, short stories and artwork from Phillips students and will be published this spring.

In addition, the foundation awarded three grants from the Marianna Goodwin Fund to projects at Smith Middle School. Two teams received grants that will enable a student from each team to participate in an extensive field trip experience.

The fund also provided a grant for three band percussion kits for students who are unable to rent or buy one. The kits would be loaned to students for one to three years.

The Marianna Goodwin Fund was established in the memory of a former student at Smith who died unexpectedly in the summer of 2006.

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## Blind photographer sees the big picture

By **Eve Greene**  
Carrboro Commons  
Photo Editor

Georg Gordon's personal goal is to photograph every home basketball game this season at Carrboro High School. This may not seem like a remarkably ambitious goal — except that Gordon is legally blind.

After multiple surgeries to correct developing macular holes, cataracts and the loss of pigment in his retinas, Gordon's impairment forced him to retire from his career as writer, photographer and editor. Fortunately, for the town of Carrboro, even the loss of his sight couldn't stop him from doing what he loves.

"Digital [photography] has saved my life," said Gordon. He knows the range of his camera and with help from the bold lines running the length of the court, he knows where to expect action.

Kirk Ross, editor of *The Carrboro Citizen*, for which Gordon freelances, said "the joy of autofocus" has kept Gordon in the field. "He really gets some great shots," said Ross.

In August of last year, Gordon moved to Carrboro, to just down the street from Carrboro High School. Needing something to fill his free time, he began to attend the home basketball games and take pictures. That's when *The Carrboro Citizen* entered the picture.

Ross said Gordon just wanted to help, and offered his services to *The Carrboro Citizen* for free. When Gordon sent him some pictures in an email, Ross wrote, "I was really happy to see someone interested in regularly documenting the teams' first seasons."

Journalism isn't about the money, Gordon explained. "When I have a kid come up to me, just totally overjoyed that his picture is in the paper, I mean, that just warms my heart."

Gordon has had to adapt as his eyesight continues to slip away. Using a magnifying glass, he can still edit pictures from his computer. Although he can take simple notes of jersey numbers, he often uses a tape recorder to keep more detailed records. Gordon is able to walk to and from the school for games, but parents and Ross often willingly offer rides when they see him along the road.

After years of building his portfolio by writing and photographing as a freelancer — "with emphasis on the free," said Gordon with a smile — he offered his services to a small newspaper in Thomasville, Ala., in 1996, beginning his third career. Born in Canada, Gordon was an office machine mechanic and an over-the-road truck driver before he was drawn to journalism.

Soon, he was providing 90 percent of the material for the weekly newspaper. After four months, the editor left and Gordon was offered the vacant position. *The Thomasville News* quickly consumed Gordon's life.

Gordon successfully ran the paper for more than nine years and became so involved that he was often forced to spend the night on a cot in the office. "My address where I was registered to vote was the newspaper office," Gordon chuckled.

Throughout the years he spent editing stories for the paper, he constantly sought out intriguing stories. He was once threatened with jail time for requesting public records and engaged in a political campaign, challenging the incumbent mayor.

In competing with *The Thomasville Times*, the established paper in the area, Gordon proved his determination by covering not only Thomasville but the surrounding counties as well. When funding dried up within the town because of pressure from the mayor, *The Thomasville News* found advertisers from outside the town.

"I knew nobody else was going to do what I could do," said Gordon of his paper's coverage of the broad area.

Even now, with the chronic decline of his eyesight, Gordon continues to write for three newspapers in Alabama. He writes on anything and everything, remaining hard-hitting and dedicated to the improvement of the towns his articles reach. "A fellow newsman told me," Gordon said, "the duty of a newspaper man is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable."

Gordon says he is even using his journalism experience here to help those at home. He hopes to take his work back and prove to the state of Alabama that even blindness can't keep him from his photography and reporting. Gordon will be using his pictures and articles to push for improvements in vocational rehabilitation programs.

Ross wrote in an email, "I'd never thought about the fact that a person with his knack and experience might through the aid of technology be able to continue doing what he loves doing."

When Gordon does return to Alabama in February, it's not just the pictures that the town will miss. It's the khaki-vested gentleman moving along the baseline with his camera and press pass proving that he can't be slowed down, even by blindness.

*Eve Greene is a UNC-CH student writing for the Carrboro Commons, the bi-weekly online lab newspaper for Carrboro produced by Jock Lauterer's Community Journalism class at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.*



Photo by Eve Greene

Photographer Georg Gordon stands ready with his camera during a triple-header on Jan. 25 at Carrboro High School. Walking the baseline, the experienced photographer is keeping his goal of shooting every home basketball game for the Jaguars. You can see his work weekly in *The Carrboro Citizen*.



PHOTO BY GEORG T. GORDON

Brad Dimac (10) of the Carrboro Jaguar varsity drives through the defense of the Durham School of the Arts during the Wednesday, Jan. 30 game in Carrboro.



PHOTO BY GEORG T. GORDON

Liz Holman (10) of the Carrboro Lady Jaguars varsity ignores a horde of Lady Bulldogs and takes her shot during the Wednesday, Jan. 30 game against the Durham School of the Arts.

## Coaches' Reports

### Carrboro High Swimming and Diving

(via Carrboro High website)

Our Swimmers & Divers competed in the 1A/2A state meet this past weekend. The competition was tough, with over 700 student-athletes representing 76 of the 89 1A/2A schools in North Carolina. Our Jaguar Swimmers & Divers stepped up to the competition and finished our first season with a bang. Both the men's and women's swim teams placed 3rd over all. The men scored a total of 168 points and the women finished with 151 points.

We had a number of incred-

ible races in both individual and relay events. In the Prelims session, there were 26 new best times and we had 16 swimmers qualify for Finals.

Congratulations to Emily Tysinger and Ken Ryan who each received special awards from the NCHSAA.

Emily Tysinger: 2007/2008 Mid-State Conference Women's Swimmer of the Year

Ken Ryan: 2007/2008 State Meet Men's MVP

Results for Cougar Divers were outstanding. Carrboro Diving results below:

Men's results (diving):  
3rd place: Colby Isabel, 4th place: Hayden Stults, 5th place: JJ Strosnyder, 6th place: Mackenzie Price.

Women's results (diving):  
3rd place: Sarah Hubbard, 4th place: Emily Johnston.

## Scoreboard

### CARRBORO HIGH MEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday, January 30  
(via Georg T. Gordon)  
Car: 16 17 18 17 = 68  
DSA: 11 8 20 22 = 61  
David Brooks topped the scoring for Carrboro with 25 points. Brad Dimac contributed 17 points, including two 3-point baskets, for the Jaguars.

### CARRBORO HIGH WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday, January 30  
(via Georg T. Gordon)  
Car: 7 8 9 21 = 45  
DSA: 11 13 12 11 = 47  
Layne Mishoe led the Carrboro scoring with 12 points on two 3-point buckets and three 2-point baskets. Kelly Brown had eight points. Omni Lester contributed six points on two 2-point baskets and two free throws.

Next games for the UNC Tar Heels:

Men: Vs Clemson at home. Feb 10, 6:30 p.m. (On FSN)

Women: Vs Clemson at home. Feb 7, 7 p.m.

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

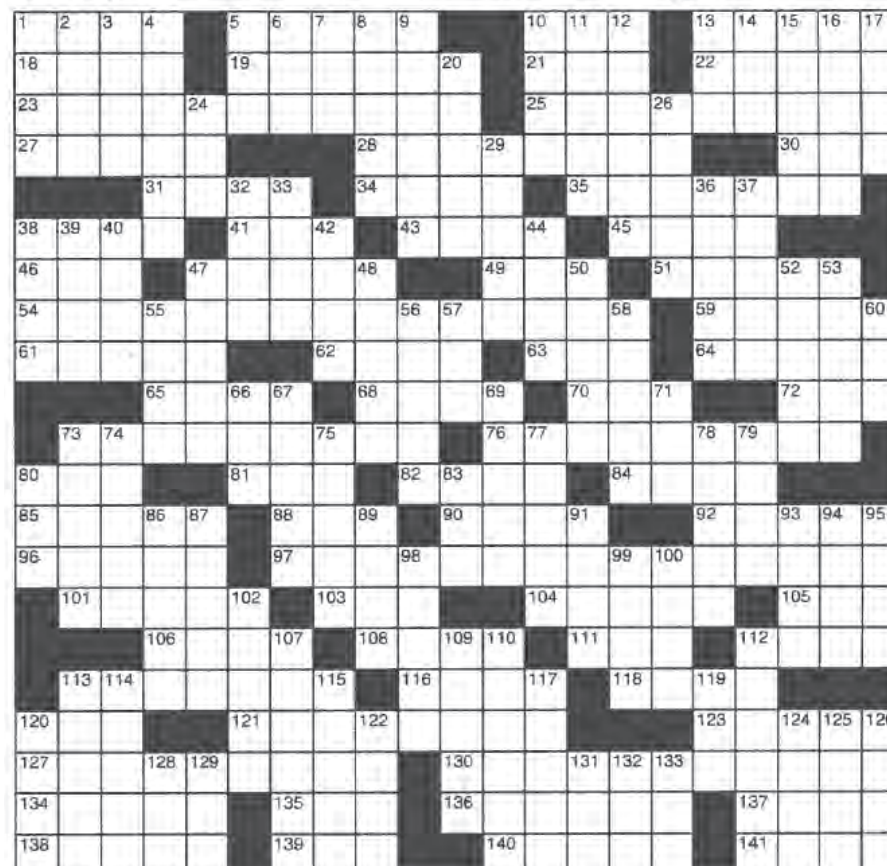
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging  
★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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**Happy Year of the Rat!**



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNY CHAN

The dragon awaits his turn for a stroll downtown. Chinese New Year celebrations are Friday and Saturday evening at Jade Palace.

**FILING FROM PAGE 1**

The primary will set the field for the November general election. Under the new county commissioner election rules, voters will select two commissioners from District 1, one from District 2 and one at-large candidate. The election will expand the board of commissioners from five to seven members.

With the exception of a portion near Interstate 40 and Whitfield Road, the two new county districts mirror the two school systems' boundaries. The election map and the expansion of the board were approved by Orange County voters in a 2006 referendum.

Rules for voting in the primaries and general elections are as follows:

- In the primary election, only residents of a district may vote for the commissioner candidate or candidates of their political party who reside in that district and seek to represent that district;

- All eligible voters in Orange County may vote in the primary for at-large candidates of their political party;

- For the general election, all Orange County voters can vote for the candidate(s) to represent District 1, District 2 and at-large.

A detailed explanation of the districts along with a map can be found on the board of elections website at [www.co.orange.nc.us/OCCLERKS/DistElectWeb.htm](http://www.co.orange.nc.us/OCCLERKS/DistElectWeb.htm).

The site will also post names and information on those filing for office.

**ELECTION FROM PAGE 1**

known for years as Elementary Number 10, Hemminger said "elementary number 11 needs to be started right away."

Pelissier, who served on both the Orange County Planning Board and the county's Commission for the Environment, said she is also concerned about managing the county's growth. The key, she said, will be in developing and carrying out the county's new comprehensive plan, an effort being led by the planning board.

"I'm very committed to seeing that we have very good planning for our county," Pelissier said. Her experiences on the board of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority during the 2001-2002 drought, she said, convinced her that there needs to be a long-term approach to managing the county's resources.

Pelissier said if she wins the post, she also hopes to focus on local economic development, particularly in bolstering the farm economy.

Foushee, who was elected in 2004, is a former chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education. She has indicated she'll seek another term, but, citing a busy week, deferred outlining a platform to *The Citizen* for this story.

All candidates studying a

possible run for the board of county commissioners will have to weigh running for an at-large or district seat (see story on page 1), a novel experience in Orange County. Starting this year, the new board will expand to seven members with one at-large seat, two District 1 seats and one District 2 seat.

*"I'm very committed to seeing that we have very good planning for our county."*

—BERNADETTE PELISSIER

Neither Foushee nor Pelissier indicated where they intend to be on the ballot, but Hemminger said she definitely plans to file for a District 1 seat, which closely mirrors the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school district, where voters are more familiar with her.

The new districts, she said, added a twist to the race.

"But hopefully anybody running knows they'll represent the whole county and not just their district," she said.

**PLAQUES FROM PAGE 1**

Eventually, the appearance commission hopes to script self-guided walking tours of Carrboro that include the historic properties. In addition, DeVine hopes to orchestrate house tours of some of the historic buildings.

Once the winning plaque design is chosen, the plaques will be available for historic-building owners to purchase and mount on the structures. DeVine said she believes the plaques can be reproduced for less than \$200.

"It really has to be, or else nobody is going to want one," she said.

Plaques can be no larger than 18 inches square and may be made out of any material that is weatherproof and of permanent quality.

The design should be reflective of Carrboro's rich history as a mill town and as an artistic and cultural mecca. The lettering on each plaque will be unique to each property and ideally would be readable from several yards.

Artists should submit a color rendering or sketch, plus two color copies, as well as an

artist's statement. Submissions should include artist contact information, material description, technical specifications, dimensions, estimated production cost and mounting details.

Entries must be received by March 30. Submissions should be sent to Carrboro Historic Building Plaque Program, Carrboro Town Hall, 301 Main St., Carrboro, NC, 27510, Attn. James Thomas.

For more information, contact Catherine DeVine at 967-3795 or [catdevine@mindspring.com](mailto:catdevine@mindspring.com).



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**TRUCKS FROM PAGE 1**

Once new language is drafted, the board will review it and decide whether to call a public hearing, which in most cases is required before the town can modify its ordinances. McGuire said she did not know how long the process of rewriting the rules would take.

In the meantime, Marty Roupe of the town's zoning division said that the town will not move forward with what are typical next steps in enforcing a zoning violation. Businesses already got an initial letter, which told them they were not in compliance and asked them to voluntarily stop allowing the trucks to use the property, Roupe said. But the next step, a second letter setting a deadline and putting the businesses on notice that they face fines, won't be sent, he said.

Roupe said it doesn't make sense to try and enforce the rule if the board of aldermen has already indicated it wants to change it.

In other action Tuesday night, the board of aldermen:

- approved a memorandum of understanding with the Partnership to End Homelessness to help formalize a joint effort by Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough and Orange County governments on the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness;

- authorized the transfer of a 7,537-square-foot parcel on Eugene Street to the Orange Community Housing and Land Trust to allow the trust to build an affordable home on the site, which is adjacent to the newly completed bike path as part of the Roberson Place project;

- set a public hearing to review road closings for the Tar Heel 10 Miler on Saturday, April 26;

- approved a change to the zoning ordinance to change lighting restrictions and parking space dimensions in two downtown zoning districts.

Further information on board of aldermen meetings, including video and audio of meetings, can be found through the town's website at [www.townof-carrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/boaAgendas.htm](http://www.townof-carrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/boaAgendas.htm)

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