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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE The dimpled trout lilies are visible for a very few weeks.



## Springtime panic

t's here again, that time I year I dread most: springtime! Terra cotta tints of elm trees and red hues of red maples announced the arrival of spring weeks ago. The tiny flowers of these native trees depend on wind currents for pollination because it's too cold for flying insects to be effective.

Bolin Creek walker Dave Otto reported seeing trout lilies in flower on Valentine's Day. Some folks call them dog-toothed violets, adder's tongues or fawn lilies. Taking "a closer look'' will give you some hints about these common names.

For me, the onslaught of springtime is symbolized by the

# **Residents question connector road policy**

#### **BY SUSAN DICKSON** Staff Writer

CARRBORO — After hours of public comment regarding connector roads for two proposed developments, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted on Tuesday to postpone decisions on both Claremont Phases IV and V and Colleton Crossing.

The plans for Claremont Phases IV and V, across Homestead Road from the development's first three phases, include 27 townhomes and 69 single-family homes. In accordance with the town's Connector Roads Policy, the development would connect to Wexford via Colfax Drive, providing access from

Homestead Road to Hillsborough Road.

However, residents have argued that the policy mandates connector roads between new developments and neighborhoods that then bring increased traffic to roads that aren't designed to handle it.

The board of aldermen approved the Connector Roads Policy in 1986 as development was initiated in the northern areas of town. The policy seeks "to ensure that old and new developments and businesses in town connect to each other, both to disperse newly generated traffic and to give a sense of connectivity and unity to the town as it grew."

Parker Louis, the development is expected to generate 58 vehicle trips per day through the Colfax Drive connection.

favor of the connection from Wexford to Claremont IV and V, the majority of speakers opposed the connection.

Scott Christie, president of the Williams Woods Homeowners' Association, spoke on behalf of the presidents of the Wexford, Cates Farm and Cobblestone homeowners' associations in opposition to the proposed connector road.

"This plan will not disperse traf-

According to the developer, fic, but instead focus and funnel it through narrow streets never intended to carry a high volume of traffic," he said. "The only way unity will be created is to allow pedestrian traffic While several residents spoke in like cyclists [and] joggers, which we do support."

Mortimer Alzoma, president of the Wexford Homeowners' Association, encouraged board members to walk through the neighborhoods to get a feel for the traffic.

"More cars will be a problem," he said. "It will be a tragic problem for some unsuspecting kid, and it will destroy a parent."

SEE **ALDERMEN** PAGE 3

# **Revaluations squeeze home, business owners**

#### **BY RICH FOWLER AND MARGOT C. LESTER**

Staff Writers It wasn't that long ago that seeing

a rise in your property value indicated a good return on investment. But the challenging economy has turned that mentality on its head. "In our normal circumstances, peo-

ple would be happy to see the value of their house go up," said Mark Zimmerman, owner of Re/Max Winning Edge in Chapel Hill. But almost as soon as Orange County's quadrennial property tax revaluations began arriving in the mail, there's been an ironic hue and cry from property owners who've seen their values rise dramatically.

"It's an odd situation for people to say, 'Please say that my wealth hasn't increased as much as you say it has,' and that's because there's out-of-pocket consequences to it," he said.

Those consequences arose primarily from two aspects of the revaluation process that produced some questionable results.

lacking for some areas that saw few or no sales during the revaluation



PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

First, sufficient market data was Marc Pons, president of Chapel Hill Tire Company, is appealing the tax assessment, which was raised this year by more than 80%, for his West Franklin Street location. "It's bad timing," he said. "I'm trying to deal with this economy that's in recession, and now this."

first appearance of the speckledpatterned leaves of the trout lily, and every year that sends me into a panic. During the springtime, too much happens too quickly. I can't keep up with it all!

I remember past years when I allowed myself to seem too busy to get out along the forest trails to catch the trout lilies. Within just a few short weeks, those beautiful little wildflowers were gone for another whole year; I had missed them again!

Being natural opportunists, some of our woodland plants emerge in the late winter to take advantage of the sunlight before the leafy canopy shades the forest floor. They grow, flower, make seed and return to dormancy in just a few short weeks. This year, I'm going to make certain that I catch the trout lilies. They are really special, and perhaps one of the most frequently photographed of all wildflowers.

Consider William Blake's "To see a world in a grain of sand/And a heaven in a wildflower/Hold infinity in the palm of your hand/And eternity in an hour" when you behold a trout lily. You may have to practice some "belly botany" by lying on the ground to peer up into a trout lily flower to get a really good look.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

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### Culbreth and Smith Honor Rolls

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period. In these cases, the assessment team uses a set of tables and formulas to make the valuation. The bulk of this year's issues occurred because the revaluations began two years ago, when the real estate market was up and property of all types was selling at high prices. Last August, be-

fore the local housing market really tanked, the average Orange County home sale price was \$344,000. By January of this year, it had plunged to \$291,000. Commercial property values also dropped over that period.

And there's the rub: Many properties

are now valued far higher than the market – and owners' stretched wallets – will bear. That leaves many owners wondering if their revaluations are accurate.

"My concern is that they're hitting the valuations at the peak of the market,' says Marc Pons, owner of Chapel Hill Tire. The value of all three of his service locations increased, some dramatically. "At this point, nobody knows what's going to happen. Everybody's suffering right now. It just doesn't seem like this is the right time to be doing it. "

SEE **REVALUATIONS** PAGE 2

# University chooses first Eve Carson Scholar

#### **BY JASMINA NOGO** Staff Writer

Despite her busy schedule of endless campus meetings, late nights studying and early mornings of trail restoration, Elinor Benami has a calm and patient disposition and makes those around her feel like there's nowhere else in the world she'd rather be.

"Even though I know she's one of the busiest and most active students on campus, she always has time to stop and talk, to ask how your day was, and she never rushes," said junior Bryce Koukopoulos, who knows Benami through UNC's student sustainability organization, FLO Food.

As an outstanding student and an exemplary campus leader, Benami, a junior from Knoxville, Tenn., was named the first Eve Marie Carson Scholar for her dedication to environmental issues. The scholarship will fund a summer experience after her junior year as well as financial aid for her senior year.

"I'm both incredibly honored and humbled to have been selected for the scholarship," Benami said. "And though I'd like to say I enjoy a good challenge, to be a very direct part of Eve's legacy is also quite a set of shoes to fill.

"Being named the first Carson scholar is certainly a great privilege, and, as such, is also a great responsibility for me to uphold in service to the rest of the Carolina community and beyond."

The Eve Marie Carson Scholarship Executive Committee, composed entirely of students, designed the scholarship program in honor of slain student body president Eve Carson to reward ambitious students who have shown strong involvement in a leadership role



PHOTO BY JASMINA NOGO

at Carolina. A separate selection com-

mittee of students and faculty chose

Benami from among 138 qualified

and depth of her passion," said senior

Andy Woods, director of the scholar-

the environment and she has demon-

strated a commitment to leadership

and service while still pursuing her

ship's executive committee.

passions," he said.

"Elinor was chosen for her breadth

'She has done a ton of work with

Elinor Benami

applicants.

ternational studies and economics and plans to pursue a career that will allow her to use a diverse set of skills, she said. She is interested in service careers and research in sustainability policy.

Benami is double-majoring in in-

"I like interdisciplinary projects that allow the use of multidimensional skills," she said.

She is currently co-chair of the Student Government Environmental Affairs Committee, which collaborates with students and faculty to promote key environmental principles, encourage sustainable lifestyles and facilitate cooperation between student environmental groups and the university.

"It's been a long and evolutionary process," she said of her passion for environmental issues. "A lot of different things have begun and sustained my interest in environmental justice."

She said it started with a love for food and quickly evolved into all of the issues concerning where our food comes from and how it's treated.

"It has become a social justice issue for me more recently," Benami said.

"One of the biggest roles we have is to connect sustainability groups on campus," she said of the Environmental Affairs Committee. The committee focuses on tangible projects as well as leadership development. Benami said she will step down from her position next year because she wants to leave room for other great leaders.

She is currently exploring several options for the summer project that the scholarship funds. One of these is to work for a center in southeastern Israel that deals with local sustainability issues.

'The undergirding philosophy appeals to me. No matter what the political situation is, we should still care about our earth," she said.

Another project she is considering is working with a scientific research group called Bridging the Rift on the border of Israel and Jordan that documents local biological species in an effort to develop scientific collaborations between scholars from the two nations.

"Another way to look at research could be as a way to create new solutions," she said.

She said she's particularly attracted to going to this part of the world because her father grew up in Israel.

"It helps provide a sense of rootedness," she said of knowing where her family comes from.

"It's a really important issue that I haven't addressed in my life," she said.

Benami also is interning for the N.C. Botanical Garden in Battle Park on campus, doing trail maintenance, tours and other projects.

"I love being there," she said. "There's so much campus history and an element of retreat and restoration."

When asked how many hours of sleep she gets on average per night, she laughed and said anywhere between four and seven. She said she doesn't hesitate to take time out of sleep if it means knowing that she's done as much as she can.

"To know I've spent my day doing something useful for other people is what matters," she said. And if that means long nights of committee meetings and early mornings of trail maintenance, she's eager to do it.

UNC will hold a ceremony to remember Carson on March 5, the oneyear anniversary of her death. The ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. in The Pit on campus, with music starting at 3:45 p.m.

## **Community Calendar**

#### **THURSDAY, FEB 26 OC Democratic Women**

— The Orange County Democratic Women will hold its monthly meeting with guest speaker Moses Carey, head of the Employment Security Commission. 7:30-9pm, OWASA Community Room, 400 Jones Ferry Road. I\_foxworth\_2000@yahoo. com, 942-0045

#### FRIDAY, FEB 27 **Bluegrass Conversation**

— Bluegrass musician Tim O'Brien will speak about his music and career. 10am, Hanes Art Center Auditorium, UNC campus. Free and open to the public. smweiss@email. unc.edu, 962-1345

#### **SATURDAY, FEB 28** NAACP Meeting— The Northern Orange NAACP will hold its annual retreat and monthly meeting. 10am, Lattisville Grove Baptist Church, 1701 Jimmy Ed Road, Hurdle Mills. 732-5708 or 304-5835



Mardi Gras — The Second Annual Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball is sponsored by ChathamArts and the Abundance Foundation. 7pm-midnight, Chatham Mills, 480 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. www.chathamarts.org, 542-0394

#### Wine and Cheese — The Hillsborough Wine Company will host a free cheese and wine tasting featuring local cheeses. I-5pm, II8 S. Churton St., Hillsborough. 732-4343

Casablanca — Century Center Cinema presents the 1942 film with free popcorn and soda. 7pm, Carrboro Century Center. \$4

**Computer Class** — A free class in Introduction to Microsoft Powerpoint. Class size limited to 4. 9-10am, Carrboro Branch Library at McDougle School. 969-3006 or www.lib.unc.edu/cws to register

**Creativity Workshop** — "Spring Forward," a workshop in writing and color, will help participants awaken their creativity. 1:30-4:30pm, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Schoolhouse. \$10 suggested donation for materials. 967-4746 or 942-2112 to register

#### **5K Race** — The Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at UNC will host a 5K race benefiting Friends for an Earlier Breast Cancer Test. 8am, the Old Well on Cameron Avenue. \$20 day of the race, \$15 in advance. www.tarheeltrot.com/index.html

#### SUNDAY, MARCH I

Community Dinner — Community-building event with sustainable food provided by local restaurants. I-3pm, McDougle School Cafetorium. \$8 adults, \$3 children under 10. www. communitydinner.org

Baby-Wearing Class— Learn how to wear your baby in the carrier of your choice. 12-1pm, The Red Hen, 201 W. Weaver St. Free. 942-4420, theredhen@gmail.com

Dangerous Ideas — Randy Best, leader of the North Carolina Ethical Society, will discuss how beliefs motivate us to act and what makes ideas good or bad. 1:30pm, Extraordinary Ventures, 200 S. Elliott Road. Free

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Travel Workshop — The Hosteling International-North Carolina Council will offer a workshop on "World Travel 101" for college-age students and adults planning trips. 7:15pm, Chapel Hill Public Library. hostellinginternationalnorthcarolina. org/News.aspx

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Holocaust Talk — Author Susan Block will lead a discussion on Van Eeden, a North Carolina agricultural settlement established in 1939 for lews fleeing Nazi Germany. 5pm reception and exhibit viewing, North Carolina Collection Gallery,

Wilson Library second floor. 5:45pm program, Pleasants Family Assembly Room, Wilson Library, UNC campus. Free. 962-4207, liza-terll@ unc.edu

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 6**

NC Live Class— Learn about the many uses of NC Live, a collection of online resources freely available to library patrons. 12:30pm, Carrboro Creative Coworking, 205 Lloyd St., Suite 101. 918-7387, cybrary@ co.orange.nc.us, www.co.orange. nc.us/library/cybrary

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

Snow Hill Hike— Naturalist Ken Moore and Triangle Land Conservancy's Bo Howes will lead a tour of the historic Snow Hill region of Durham County. 10am. For directions or to register, visit www. triangleland.org/news/calendar/ calendar.shtml

#### Coffee and Wine Tast**ing**— Coffee Cupping and Wine Tasting with Cup-A-Joe. I-5pm, Hillsborough Wine Company, 118 S. Churton St., Hillsborough. Free. 732-4343

#### Ongoing



Cancer Support Center A Place of Caring and Sharing



Cancer Support — Weekly support free of charge for cancer patients and family at Cornucopia House. cornucopiahouse.org

Do you have anything for one of our calendars? Send your submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

**The Compassionate Friends** — Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm. Self-help support after the death of a child. Free and open to all

adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Evergreen United Methodist Church. 967-3221, chapelhilltcf.org

DivorceCare — Mondays, 7pm. A support group for those separated or divorced. Orange United Methodist Church, 942-2825, connect2orange.org

Computer Class — Chapel Hill SeniorNet is offering a class in Spreadsheet Fundamentals. 9-11am Tuesdays and Thursdays until March 19, Seymour Senior Center. 968-2070 to register

#### Kids

Pajama Story Time — Feb. 20, 7pm. Market Street Books, 510 Market St., Southern Village. 933-5111

Toddler Time — Thursdays, 4pm, Carrboro Branch Library. 969-3006

Preschool Story Time — Saturdays, 10:30am, Carrboro Branch Library, 969-3006

Story Time — Thursdays, 10:30am. Market Street Books. All ages welcomed. 933-5111

Express Yourself! — Saturdays, 10:45-11:15am, 11:30am-noon. Art program for ages 3-8 & their caregivers. Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E., Franklin St. \$2, 933-1455, kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

#### **Volunteers RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program**

— Seeks volunteers at least 55 years of age and over who would like assistance in finding an opportunity that matches their interests. RSVP places volunteers with more than 100 nonprofit agencies in Orange County. 968-2056, co.orange.nc.us/ aging/RSVPindex.asp

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

**Hospice** — Training for those interested in being UNC Hospice volunteers, Fridays from Feb. 13-Mar. 20, 9am-12pm. UNC Health Care/Hospice Office, 1101 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill. To register, contact Mary Honeycutt, 542-5545 or mhoneycutt@unch.unc.edu

# **Carr Mill Mall break-ins**

are investigating several break-ins that occurred in Carr Mill Mall late Saturday night.

According to police, the suspect entered the mall through a door to Panzanella, then continued through the mall, where he broke into several businesses, including Mulberry Silks, Sofia's, Rita's Italian Ice and the Woodland Shop. Police are still determining exactly how much was stolen from the businesses, but found \$310.77 in a bag recovered at the scene.

The suspect is described as a black male, 25 to 35 years old, between five feet four inches and five feet seven inches tall and of medium build. He was last seen wearing

CARRBORO — Carrboro police a heavy jacket and jeans traveling south from the mall on foot.

Carrboro Police Captain J.G. Booker said the manner in which the crime was committed matches suspects the police department has dealt with before, but that police had not yet arrested anyone in connection with the incident.

"You know in a downtown business district that businesses are going to be broken into at some point," Booker said.

Police were notified that a suspect had entered the mall by an Elmo's employee who spotted the suspect.

Booker encouraged residents to

notify police if they see any suspicious activity surrounding businesses.

- SUSAN DICKSON

# **Crowd protests taxes**

HILLSBOROUGH — It's uncertain how many people turned out Monday night at the Red Barn at Daniel Boone Village in Hillsborough for the Orange County Tax Revolt meeting. The line snaked around the barn and event organizers said they stopped counting the number of people both inside and out after hitting the 1,300 mark.

As it happens, the maximum the building is supposed to hold is 300. With 400 to 500 already stuffed inside, the Hillsborough Fire Marshal's Office began turning folks away.

Carrboro resident Bryan Berger, who started the movement with a sign in his front yard, was certainly pleased with the turnout, but disappointed more couldn't enter.

"I am just tickled pink to see so many people here," Berger said, "and it just breaks my heart that we had to turn away hundreds of people who couldn't get in the building."

The event was sponsored and staffed by members of Freedom-Works, a national small-government, anti-tax movement chaired by former Republican House Majority Leader Dick Armey - and those who did make it in the door heard former Hillsborough Mayor Joe Phelps give advice on appealing their tax assessments and former Orange County Commissioner Ben Lloyd blame local governments for high property tax burdens, a lack of economic development and wasteful spending.

The crowd of mostly older residents warmed up to the message with applause and shouts of "Amen!"

Gerald Talbert owns two gas stations in Orange County and came to the meeting because he's frustrated with the taxes he's paying.

"I've been angry for years," Talbert said, "because it keeps going up and up and up. I don't have anything to show for it."

With the bad economy hurting his convenience store sales, and falling gas prices adding to his problems, Talbert said he will have to start setting aside money to pay his property taxes in July this year instead of September.

Jane Hatley came from her home in the southern part of the county to find out how to appeal her tax revaluations. She's been retired from UNC Hospitals since 1993 and lives on a fixed income.

"We have to do something for my grandchildren and their children," Hatley said.

The next meeting is set for March 16; but because of the large turnout on Monday night, organizers haven't yet decided on a location.

#### - RICH FOWLER

# **REVALUATIONS**

FROM PAGE I

assessments were inaccurate. "For people in established neighborhoods, we're not seeing that the reassessment numbers

ary, the retired couple discovered the tax value on their home had gone up from just under \$13,500 now. So I said to my \$698,000 in 2005 to \$1,107,000 wife, 'Get ready to move.' We in 2009 — a 58 percent increase. Rose says that the value of the house only went up 20 percent, but the value of the land it sits on - two-thirds of an acre on Eastwood Lake - doubled from \$300,000 to \$600,000. Rose has already appealed his revaluation. "We're not contesting so much the increase of the value of the house so much, but we're going to the mat over the land. I am planning right now on going to the next step. And if that doesn't work out, I'm going to take it to Raleigh."

Tom, for something around \$25,000 in taxes.' I'm paying

can't live under those circum-

stances," Rose said. "I'm not say-

ing the house didn't increase [in

value], and that's wonderful. But

I don't have the income. I'm se-

rious when I say I'll have to see

what my tax bill looks like; and

if it's more than I can handle,

which is what I suspect it might

be, I will have to move, and I will

Pons was surprised by the

increased valuations at his two

Chapel Hill locations on West

Franklin Street and University

"The Franklin Street service

Mall (a third location is in Car-

center, which is an unimproved property, went up 84 percent.

That's like \$70 per square foot of land," Pons said. "The East

Franklin location went up 49

percent." He's appealing the re-

increase was based on one high-

per square foot in the area - it

was Spencer Young [owner of

the Courtyard] when he was try-

He guesses the West Franklin

"There was one sale for \$70

rboro).

valuations.

profile transaction.

move out of this county."

**Business impact** 

ing to find a parking lot. It was a desperate buy and now they're in foreclosure," Pons noted. "We're valuations in a down economy, not going to go out of business,

To soothe the sting of higher County Commissioner Mike Nelson advocates a reduction in

challenging," she said.

#### Mostly accurate

The Orange County Tax Assessor's office reviewed values on 53,000 properties countywide; 19,591 were residential parcels in 290 neighborhoods. One-hundred-forty-three neighborhoods consisting of 10,517 properties saw revaluations in excess of the 22 percent county average. Another 147 neighborhoods consisting of 8,782 properties were revalued below the county average.

Zimmerman and some of his colleagues have been doing comparative market analyses for homeowners who think their re-

are off an awful lot," he said. But there are some exceptions. "Where there's better information, they're getting closer; and where there's less information, there can be some pretty wide swings," he said.

Orange County property owners have until March 31 to appeal their revaluations. So far, the assessor's office has received more than 1,500 requests for review.

#### 'Get ready to move'

Thirty years ago, Tom Rose and his wife built a house on Lakeshore Drive in Chapel Hill for less than \$300,000. In Janu-

And if he loses his appeal? "My realtor said, 'Get ready,

How it's done

Every four years, the six-person Orange County Tax Assessor's office reassesses the tax value of 53,000 pieces of residential and commercial property and other real estate in the county. But the actual process begins about two years before the revaluation takes effect, when assessors begin tracking real estate sales and evaluate how close overall tax values are to current market values. That establishes if the aggregate value needs to be adjusted up or down. When the most recent revaluation was finished, it showed that the county's overall property tax value had risen 26 percent.

"After we apply the county-wide adjustments, then we start looking at each neighborhood and try and figure out, 'Okay, well, we're still a little low in this neighborhood, we're a little high in this neighborhood, so we need to make adjustments," says Orange County Tax Assessor John Smith. The team periodically revisits neighborhoods it's already assessed to determine if action is needed to keep the new values in line with changes in the market.

#### **Neighborhood Impact** Source: Orange County Tax Assessor

290 neighborhoods consisting of 19,591 residential properties

143 neighborhoods consisting of 10,517 properties had revaluations in excess of the county average of 22 percent.

147 neighborhoods consisting of 8,782 properties had revaluations below the county average.

#### Neighborhoods with highest increases

| Neighborhood           | # of Properties   |
|------------------------|---|
| White Oak Condos       | 95  |
| Stateside              | 43  |
| Rangewood              | 73  |
| Homestead Village      | 62  |
| Camelot Village Condos | 109   |
|                        | White Oak Condos<br>Stateside<br>Rangewood<br>Homestead Village |

#### Neighborhoods with lowest increases

| Percentage increase from 2005 | Neighborhood     | # of Pro |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1.50%                         | Braddock Park    | 30       |
| 1.27%                         | Governor's Grove | 34       |
| 0.99%                         | Northern Heights | 41       |
| -0.01%                        | North Dixie      | 68       |
| -2.92%                        | La Mesa          | 70       |

| perties | Location                                 |
|---------|--|
|         | Hillsborough; U.S. 70 at Scotswood Blvd. |
|         | Cedar Grove                              |
|         | Hillsborough; off U.S. 70 at Rainey Ave. |
|         | Hillsborough; off U.S. 70 at Rainey Ave. |
|         | Timberlake; off N.C. 57 at Bacon Road    |

Carrboro; Fidelity St. off of Main St.

Chapel Hill; off MLK near Timberlyne

Carrboro; off N.C. 54 mear Poplar Ave.

Chapel Hill; off Homestead Road near Chapel Hill High

Chapel Hill; S. Estes Dr. Across from University Mall

Location

op

but it certainly hurts.'

Julie Jennings owns Uniquities, a women's clothing store also on West Franklin Street, and the building it's located in. Its tax value was \$263,700 in 2004. When reassessed in 2005, the value shot up to \$480,000, an 82 percent increase. This year, the new tax value is \$708,800, a 47 percent increase. Making matters worse, the assessed value of Jennings' home went up around 50 percent too. She plans to challenge both.

Like Pons, she said the increased value won't put her out of business, but it does put her in a squeeze.

"People are spending less money locally. It's going to be the property tax rate. "Lowering the tax rate to be 'revenue neutral' is standard operating procedure for local governments," said Nelson. "Local elected officials need to stick to our promise to adopt a lower,

"It's a little early to say for sure exactly what the new tax rate will be, but the county's current tax rate is just over 99 cents. A revenue-neutral rate might be, say, 87 cents. Lowering the tax rate will be good for our citizens."

revenue-neutral tax rate.

Editor's note: The Citizen will follow the property owners in this article to see how their appeals come out.

### Appealing your revaluation

Think your revaluation is out of whack? Here's how to appeal it.

"If you just go in with 'I think you're wrong,' you're not going to get anywhere with them," said Mark Zimmerman, owner of Re/Max Winning Edge in Chapel Hill. Bring as much data to prove your point as possible.

Download the Valuation Input and Review Form (available at www.co.orange.nc.us/assessor/taxvalfm.pdf). Gathering the necessary data isn't hard, but it does require time, which is why some property owners have engaged real estate pros to help. Acceptable data includes comparables gathered from the Multiple Listing Service or even ads in the newspaper. You can also cite property tax values from neighboring parcels (available at http:// gis.co.orange.nc.us/land/search.asp). Some people are going as far as shelling out \$300 to \$400 for an official appraisal, the "gold standard" of proof in an appeal.

"This is the first year we've ever had on the website the ability to search by address, so you can pull up a street, look up every valuation on that street, boom, just like that," said Orange County Tax Assessor John Smith said. "People are taking advantage of that. The better the information we get, the better the revaluation is going to be in the end, and the more likelihood of an adjustment."

Residents who are successful in their requests will receive a notice of revaluation in mid- to late April.

If property owners still aren't satisfied, they will have 30 days to appeal to the Orange County Board of Equalization and Review, a three-member panel that hears each revaluation appeal. Residents also can appeal to the North Carolina Property Tax Commission in Raleigh, the last step they have before going to court.

#### **Other resources**

There are other forms of relief available to elderly, disabled and some agricultural property owners. For more information on eligibility requirements, visit www.co.orange.nc.us/assessor/exemption.asp or call 245-2100.



# **News Briefs**

#### **Rail station sites named**

The Rail Station Task Force on Thursday recommended a site in central Hillsborough as the best location for a passenger train station to serve Orange County. The site is owned by the Town of Hillsborough and is located north of Daniel Boone Village, bordered by Churton Street and U.S. 70-A.

The task force, appointed last fall by the board of commissioners and the Hillsborough Town Board, also picked the former depot site at the foot of Nash Street in west Hillsborough as an alternative.

#### Journey of reconciliation

One of the most important North Carolina civil rights protests prior to the sit-ins of 1960 will be commemorated in Chapel Hill on Saturday with the unveiling of a historic state highway marker at the corner of Rosemary and Columbia streets.

The protest of 1947, called the First Freedom Ride, consisted of an interracial group committed to testing a Supreme Court decision in 1946 that ruled state Jim Crow laws on interstate buses and trains were unconstitutional. On their trip on April 13 from Chapel Hill to Greensboro, the bus driver demanded that they re-seat themselves according to Jim Crow laws. Upon their refusal, the driver summoned the police and an angry mob of white cabdrivers attacked one of the Freedom Riders. The events precipitated an unprecedented debate on police conduct, Jim Crow laws and mob violence.

Saturday's event begins with a gathering at noon at the Hargraves Community Center followed by a march from the center to the dedication site. A reception will follow at Town Hall.

#### **Cardboard recycling**

Corrugated cardboard must be separated from garbage for recycling as of March 1. Pizza boxes, however, may be thrown away or recycled if they are clean and empty. The towns and the county will begin monitoring solid-waste collection to ensure that residents are using either curbside cardboard recycling or taking cardboard to drop-off sites. For curbside recycling, cardboard boxes must be flattened and emptied and pieces must be no larger than three feet square.

#### Muddy water training

The Haw River Assembly, Friends of Bolin Creek and the Morgan Creek Valley Alliance are looking for volunteers for Orange County Muddy Water Watch. The project is designed to reduce the amount of mud from development entering waterways. The training series for volunteers is free and open to the public and focuses on sediment and erosion control. Training sessions will be held at the N.C. Botanical Garden on Feb. 26 and March 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. Field training sessions will be held Feb. 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the new building construction at the botanical garden and March 28, time and place to be announced.

Certified Muddy Water Watch volunteers must be members of the Haw River Assembly. To join, visit www.hawriver.org, For more information, call 542-5790 or email info@hawriver.org.

# THE CARRBORD

#### **HOW TO REACH US** The Carrboro Citizen 942-2100 P.O. Box 248 942-2195 (FAX) Carrboro, NC 27510

EDITORIAL editor@carrborocitizen.com

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#### **CLASSIFIED & REAL ESTATE**

919-942-2100, 8:30-3 M-F carrborocitizen.com/classifieds Classifieds deadline is midnight Tuesday.

#### SCRIPTIONS

# **Columbia Street widening gets final OK**

#### **BY KIRK ROSS** Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — After decades of back and forth with the university and the state Department of Transportation, the Chapel Hill Town Council gave final approval to a \$4.4 million project for South Columbia Street from Fordham Boulevard to Manning Drive.

The project would reshape the street to include two 12-foot-wide travel lanes; a four-foot bicycle lane on the east side and five-foot bicycle lane on the west side; curb and gutter with five-foot sidewalks on both sides; better drainage; and improvements to intersections, including turn lanes at several locations.

The project is being paid for mainly with state funds. The town's share of the project is \$25,300.

The configuration of the street has changed considerably since

ALDERMEN

FROM PAGE I

who develops sustainable com-

munities, said the connector

roads policy helps reduce the total number of miles driven, con-

tributing to the public good.

Giles Blunden, an architect

"All those things that go with

those miles - the carbon, the

pollution, the traffic, the danger

- all of those are reduced [with

connector roads], and that is why

the public is served by connector

nector road would provide an-

other way out for residents of the

established neighborhood, re-

ducing traffic using the current

entrance to the neighborhood. Matthew Barton, chair of the Carrboro Planning Board

and a resident of Wexford, said

he supported the connection

advantages to connectivity as

long as you don't endanger safety," he said. "These roads were built with sidewalks.

They are not built just to be

children's play areas."

"I believe there's a lot of

from Claremont to Wexford.

Blunden added that the con-

roads," he said.

the 1980s, when the DOT offered Chapel Hill officials \$4.1 million if they would allow a five-lane road that would run through town, a move the town turned down.

Years of negotiations resulted in Chancellor Michael Hooker finally agreeing with the town on a narrow design. After Hooker's death, Chancellor James Moeser and hospital officials tried to revisit a wider road. Town officials repeatedly resisted those efforts, pushing for a limited widening with better infrastructure for pedestrian and bicycle use.

After several forums on the project in 2002, an agreement was struck on a new design. The project is scheduled to go out for bid on July 1, with construction due to start in September.

Former council member Joe Capowski, who lives near the road, said he and his neighbors are delighted to see the improvements finally on the way. Capowski, who first got involved in discussions on the project in the 1980s, said people who own property along the road have been reluctant to make investments in their properties because of the uncertainty.

"This provides some stability," he said. "It lifts a 20-year-old black cloud that's been hanging over the neighborhood."

Although the town's share of the project is small, the project does come at a cost to Chapel Hill Transit. Changing the frequency of routes and rerouting buses during construction could cost the transit system's partners between \$600,000 and \$1.1 million. Construction on Columbia Street will affect the D, J, NS, V, CCX, CPX and JFX routes, which make 512 trips per day on the road, according to transit officials.

In other action, the council gave the go-ahead Monday night to the Residences at Grove Park, a high-density project downtown on a 12.9-acre site between Hillsborough Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The project is adjacent to Northampton Terrace. The first phase of the plan calls for a mix of 40 townhomes and 148 apartments and for a second phase with 158 apartments.

Also at the meeting, the council:

· Authorized the purchase of two additional electric hybrid buses with roughly \$1.1 million from the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (also known as the stimulus bill);

• Authorized a contract with Walter Holmes Electric Inc. for \$501,675 for the design and installation of athletic lights and poles at Cedar Falls, Hargraves, Homestead and Ephesus parks;

• Rescheduled to March 9 a public hearing to consider ordinances that would allow residents to keep up to 10 female chickens.



Local residents oppose extending Claymore Road for use as access to the planned Colleton Crossing Development.

The board voted to postpone a decision on the proposed development until March 17.

#### **Colleton Crossing**

revised the proposal to include another access point via a con-The board also heard from residents regarding the Colleton

Court said they felt blindsided by the proposal to build a road between their homes, adding that the developer never contacted them to discuss the easement.

Board members questioned nector road between two homes whether the developer could legally use the easement to connect to Huntsman Court and said they couldn't make a decision on the proposal until they knew which connection option would be pursued.

The Carrboro Citizen is free to pick up at our many locations throughout Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Pittsboro and Hillsborough. Subscriptions are also available via first class mail and are \$78 per year. Send a check to The Citizen, Post Office Box 248, Carrboro, N.C. 27510. Visa/Mastercard are also accepted. Please contact Anne Billings at 919-942-2100 for credit card orders.

**ONLINE** carrborocitizen.com/main Updated every Thursday.

Residents also spoke in favor of the developer's proposed bridge under Homestead Road, saying it was necessary to provide a safe crossing for children traveling from Phases IV and V to the recreation areas in Claremont's first three phases.

10

#2=1.6 gallons

SAVO WALEI/ SAVO ŠŠŠ

Crossing development, which is proposed for 8400 and 8420 Reynard Road. The developer, MBI Development, proposes a 39-dwelling subdivision on 31.6 acres. According to the developer, the project, if approved, is projected to open in 2010.

on Huntsman Court after the town requested that they look at other access options.

Initially, the developer pro-

posed a connector road from the

development to Claymore Road

in the Highlands. They later

Residents have opposed both connector road options, citing unsafe conditions created by increased traffic on roads not designed to handle it. Residents of Huntsman

The board will revisit the proposal on April 28.

#### NOTICE OF A COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS TO SR 1919 (SMITH LEVEL ROAD) FROM SOUTH OF ROCK HAVEN ROAD TO **BRIDGE NO. 88 OVER MORGAN CREEK IN CARRBORO**

TIP Project No. U-2803

Orange County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a Pre-Hearing Open House and Combined Public Hearing on March 9, 2009 at Carrboro Elementary School, located at 400 Shelton Street, Carrboro, 27510.

NCDOT representatives will be available at a pre-hearing open house in the auditorium lobby between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to answer questions and receive comments relative to the location and design of the proposed project. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours. Handouts and comment sheets will be distributed. The formal public hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions and comments. The presentation and comments will be recorded and a written transcript will be prepared.

NCDOT proposes transportation improvements to SR 1919 (Smith Level Road) which include: widening Smith Level Road to three lanes (between Rock Haven Road and Culbreth Road), transition between three to four lanes (between Culbreth Road and BPW Club Road), and widen to a four-lane, median divided roadway between BPW Club Road and Morgan Creek. A roundabout intersection is proposed at the intersection of Smith Level Road and Rock Haven Road. Sidewalks and bicycle accommodations are proposed throughout the project.

A map displaying the location and design of the project and a copy of the environmental document - State Environmental Assessment / Finding of No Significant Impact - are available for public review at the Town of Carrboro, 301 W. Main Street, Carrboro, 27510. The map is also available online at: www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/hearingmaps\_by\_county.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Ed Lewis, Human Environment Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, by phone (919) 431-6585, by fax (919) 431-2001 or by email at elewis@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Mr. Lewis as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.



For more information or vendor inquiries, please contact Brendan Moore, 919-918-7392. bmoore@townofcarrboro.org Mailing Address: 100 N. Greensboro St., Carrboro, NC 27510



# FARMERS' MARKET

#### What's at Market?

#### Check out the Year-Round Farmers' Market:

Tulips, daffodils, irises, lettuce, hydroponic basil, chard, spring onions, pac choy, flour, onions, garlic, arugula, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, fresh herbs, kale, leeks, mustard greens, salad greens, spinach, sweet potatoes, turnips, turnip greens, winter squashes, pecans, herb and vegetable starters, NEW chicken-sausage, maple sausage, smoked ham, smoked ham hocks, liverwurst, lamb, bacon, chicken, eggs, cow's milk cheeses, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, and relishes

#### **Recipe of the Week**

#### **Braised Baby Bok Choy** with Celery and Ginger from Kelly Clark, Market **Staff and Volunteer**

Ingredients

8 clusters baby bok choy,\* thoroughly washed and leaving the cluster intact\*\*

I Tablespoon olive oil I 1/2 Tablespoon fresh ginger, peeled and shaved with a vegetable peeler

- 1/2 cup celery, very thinly sliced on the diagonal 1/2 cup onion,\* thinly sliced 2 cups vegetable stock
  - I Tablespoon soy sauce

#### Procedure

In a pan large enough to hold the bok choy in one layer, heat the olive oil over medium. Add the celery and onion and cook for several minutes. Add the ginger and cook until the ginger becomes fragrant. Add the vegetable stock, bring to a boil, then simmer for 5 minutes. Add the baby bok choy clusters in a single layer. Simmer over medium low heat for 5 minutes, then turn the clusters over. Simmer for another 5 minutes, then turn again. Simmer for another 5 minutes, turn and sprinkle soy sauce over the bok choy. Serve hot. \*Ingredients Available at Market

### **School Briefs**

#### **BRMA** workshop

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Blue Ribbon Mentor Advocate will hold a workshop, "Education as a Family Goal," on Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria at Smith Middle School.

The workshop will cover such topics as how to help children with school assignments, how to set goals for the future and how to help children apply for college and financial aid, and will be given in both Spanish and English.

Child care will be provided.

#### **CHS** winter sports awards

The Carrboro High School Winter Sports Ceremony will be held on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Carrboro High gym.

Each winter team will be recognized and team awards and senior gifts will be presented.

#### CHHS sports awards

The Chapel Hill High School Winter Sports Awards Ceremony will be held March 18 at 7 p.m. in the Hanes Auditorium at Chapel Hill High.

To submit pictures for the sports

awards slide show or for more information, contact Hue Marlatt at hmarlattdg@gmail.com

#### Japanese writing contest

Three Carrboro High School students won awards in the North Carolina Japanese High School Essay Contest.

Ryan Chavis won first place in Level II, Alexander Taylor won third place in Level I and Issac Bryant won third place in Level II.

The contest allows students to submit essays in Japanese in any of four different levels of language use.

#### **Celebration of Earth** and Sky

Volunteers are needed for the Celebration of Earth and Sky, which will be held April 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Carrboro Century Center.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Chapel Hill High School earth and environmental science teacher Ron Greenburg at rgreenburg@chccs. k12.nc.us or 929-2106, ext. 1119. Knott receives award

Stephanie Knott, assistant superintendent for community relations for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, has been named the Campaign Leader of the Year for Orange County by Triangle United Way for the second year in a row.

The honor recognizes the strong support shown by the school district to the United Way. The award will be presented on March 19 at the Chairman's Award Reception in Cary.

#### CHHS band students honored

Seven Chapel Hill High School band students were named to the All-District Band and four others were named to the All-Central Region Jazz Band.

Students named to the All-District Band were: Sara Aratake, sixth-chair clarinet, 9-10 wind ensemble; Nick Powers, 16th-chair clarinet, 9-12 symphonic band; Yiying Li, 19th-chair clarinet, 9-12 symphonic band; Rebecca Clemens, seventh-chair trombone, 9-12 symphonic band; Audrey Baron, sixth-chair trumpet, 11-12 wind ensemble; Eric Lang, second-chair tuba, 11-12 wind ensemble; and Robert Susick, third-chair snare, 11-12 wind ensemble.

Students named to the All-Central Region Jazz Band students were: Alex Smith, second-chair alto saxophone, B Band; Langston Harris, first-chair trumpet, B Band; Rebecca Clemens, thirdchair trombone, B Band; and Patrick Dear, guitar, A Band.

#### ArtsCenter teacher workshops

The ArtsCenter will host free classroom teacher workshops March 24 and April 21 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

The March workshop, "Writing and Reading with Rhythm," will focus on moving literacy goals into the realms of sound and rhythm. The April workshop, "Integrating the Arts into Math," will focus on games, chants, music and rhythm as avenues for exploring mathematical concepts.

To register, email your name, school, grade level, phone number, email address and workshop you will attend to artsineducation@ artscenterlive.org at least one week prior to the start of the workshop. For more information, contact Tracy Thomas at 929-2787, ext. 400.



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|    |  |  | arket<br>VINGS                           |
|----|--|--|--|
|    | FRESH DAILY<br>Boneless, skinless<br>Chicken Breasts<br>*2.69/1b | MADE DAILY<br>Fresh Country<br>Sausage<br>*1.99/lb | Cackalacky<br>Sauce<br>*3.99/bottle      |
|    | Cut to Order<br><b>Pork Chops</b><br>CENTER CUT<br>*2.99/1b      | NY Strip<br>Black Angus<br>*6.99/lb                | ALL NATURAL<br>Ground Chuck<br>*2.99/Ib  |
| 14 | cut to order<br>Angus Rib Eye<br>*6.99/Ib                        | cut to order<br>Fresh Chicken<br>*1.29/1b          | whole or sliced<br>Hog Jowls<br>*2.99/1b |

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#### SUPER CROSSWORD ILL HUMOR

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YFXY

Citizen**Cryptoquote** By Martin Brody

For example, YAPHCYAPLM is WORDSWORTH. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the two O's, Y for the two W's, etc.. Apostrophes, punctuation, the length and formation of the words are all hints.

"Relatives"

DWOE YEOT MXQRND RZ CWY

WCT WM SNWWP, SOY WM

ETZGTKY XCP VWD RC TXKF

WYFTE'Z NRMT. EXETND PW

QTQSTEZ WM WCT MXQRND

JEWB OG OCPTE YFT ZXQT

EWWM. - "RNNOZRWCZ"

Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

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SWCP

VISA

YFT

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NRCUZ

• Business Cards

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### PETS OF THE WEEK



**PAWS4EVER** — Hello, Bob! A sweet 2.5-yr-old tricolor beagle. Bob is a breath of fresh air if you're wanting a dog that does not need tons of exercise and entertainment to keep him happy. Bob's favorite activity besides sniffing around like beagles do? Cuddling with you! It takes mere moments of belly rubs to lull this cute little guy into a deep sleep. Bob is also a social butterfly, enjoying dogs company and being playful when around them. He is comedy and cute in one little tricolor package! Come see him at Paws4Ever, 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at paws4ever.org

#### **ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES** — Meet Samara!

This super cute lab mix is around 6 months old and still isn't quite sure of herself. She's a shy baby who has come around a lot at the shelter, but still needs a calm and gentle home to build her confidence! In return, you'll have a loyal companion for life! Visit 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



#### by Linda Thistle

Weekly **SUDOKU** 

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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: \*

 $\star$  Moderate  $\star \star$  Challenging \* \* \* HOO BOY! © 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.





MONDAY — Cheeseburger on a Bun; Fishwich; Seasoned Potato Wedges; Peas & Carrots; Lettuce & Tomato Salad; Chilled Peaches

**TUESDAY** — Cheese Ravioli w/Garlic Bread; Chicken Tacos w/Salsa, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato; Fun on the Run; Seasoned Pinto Beans; Mexicali Corn; Fresh Orange Wedges WEDNESDAY — Chicken Patty Sandwich; Beef &

Macaroni w/Wheat Roll; Green Beans; Steamed Carrots; Chilled Fruit Cocktail

THURSDAY — Baked Chicken w/Wheat Roll; Ham & Cheese Melt; Fun on the Run; Mashed Potatoes; Turnip Greens; Mandarin Oranges

MIDDLE + HIGH FRIDAY — Teacher workday. No School.

MONDAY — Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ Sauce & Wheat Roll; Beef Tacos w/Salsa, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato; Spanish Rice; Sweet Yellow Corn; Fresh Apple

**TUESDAY** — Pork Egg Roll w/Wheat Roll; Mozzarella Cheese Sticks w/Marinara Dipping Sauce; Brown Rice Pilaf; Asian Style Vegetables; Chilled Apricots

WEDNESDAY — Steak and Cheese Sandwich; Chicken Salad w/Crackers; Lettuce & Tomato Salad; Carrot & Celery Sticks w/FF Ranch Dressing; Steamed Broccoli; Fresh Banana

THURSDAY — Ham & Cheese Sub; Chicken Tetrazzini w/Wheat Roll; Lettuce & Tomato Salad; Sweet Potatoes and Apples; Seasoned Lima Beans; Chilled

# CULBRETH

#### 6TH GRADE - A Samuel Abernathy, Kenza Araba, Maysa

Araba, Joo Young Bae Maeve Bell, Madison Bennett, Aidan Blake, Benjamin Bourret Imogene Brannum, Madeline Brobst, Mayah Burgess, Hannah Camp Sarah Cline, Amelia Covington, Marissa Creatore, Emma Daum Jack Devonport, Chathan Driehuys, Joshua DuBois, Kali Faatz Idan Falek, Ethan Foy, Anthony Fraden, Pearson Gallagher, Emma Giusto, Darius Glover, Trygve Godtliebsen, Boldizsar Gyongyosi, Catherine Haley, Katherine Hand, Claire Hanlon, Christopher Hemmer, Colin Henning, Katherine Heuser Eleanor Holroyd, Michele Houston, Roy Huang, Neal James, Reshma Jayaram, Joseph Jewett, Isabel Kessler, Anna Knotek, Elizabeth Kupec, Noah Lambert, Kyoung Joon Lee, Maya Marin, Elspeth McWilliam-Grench, Logan Melville, Aleksander Mieczkowski Benjamin Millar, Alejandro Mojica, Helen Morken, Lyn Nelson Santul Nerkar, Yuming Niou, Carlos Orellana, Chloe Ouellet-Pizer Seo Hee Park, Elena Peterman, Hanna Peterman, Grace Reagan Peter Rhodes, Katherine Richardson, Marcus Rovner, Morgan Ryan Robert Seligson, Hans Singh, Isabel Sistachs, Anna Smith Krystal Smith, Lily Smith, Molly Smith, Kara Stonecypher Daniel Stratton, Taliana Tudryn, Hayden Whayne, Matthew White Amy Williams, Claire Wilson, Sophia Winkler, Morgan Wolfe Kristin Wyatt, Arthur Yeames III, Tarek Zikry

#### 6TH GRADE - AB

Byeonguk Ahn, Carolanne Anderson, Grace Atkins, Henry Beachum William Bekolo, Katherine Benavides, Estefania Bernal, Samuel Blobe, Leah Block, Elston Brown, James Carpenter, Richard Cato Benjamin Christians, Ethan Cole, Anna Coleman, Khalil Collins Aminata Conteh, Sydney Cooper, Lauren Copeland, Alexandra Copenhaver, Callum Cordell, Keegan Cordell, Raymond Damron Benjamin Darrow, Haley Davis, John Davis, Andre De Oliveira Thomas Devetski, Tamia Eatmon, Ameera Edwards, Katlyn Edwards Kinsey Fisher, Sophia Fisher, Samantha Flaugher, William Fritsch Nicole Gabriel, Janell Gibbs, Paige Gondek, Stuart Griffin Garrett Hattman, Taylor Headen, Emily Henley, Aaron Hill Jacqueline Hine, John Hudson, Victoria Iglesias, Molly Jordan Kevin Joyce, Benjamin Kemper, Jun Soo Kim, Justin Laatz, Monica Lang, Timothy Leow, Vincent Li, Andrew Liu, Thomas Lloyd Angelina Lu, Charles Lynn, Chagal Marciano, Morgane Marshall Teresa McKeeman, Ruth Metz, Harris Middlesworth, Cristopher Mitchell, Scott Mooney, Colin Mraz, Linh Nguyen, Stephen Nuttall James Olshan, Aaron Person, Anthony Peterson, Zachary Pritchard Matthew Pruitt, Young Jin Pyo, Jamie Rehlaender, Quinn Rhodes Lucia Romano, Joshua Rubenstein, Jacob Schanfarber, Thomas Scott Henry Selkirk, Ari Smith, Kelsey Smith, Zoe Smith, Maya Sokoletsky, Kathryn Spang, Susannah Stewart, James Tignor, Abel Torija Romero, Olivia Turschak, Jamil Walker,

#### **7TH GRADE - A**

Ling Awi, Noah Balamucki, Jeffrey Balog, Bryanna Baumann Catherine Jane Bentulan, Pranshu Bhardwaj, Victoria Brancazio Oscar Brennwald, Murat Calikoglu, Michelle Chang, Eva Church Thomas Clark, Andrew Cook, Eleanor Costley, Jason Cox, Varun Dalmia, Chloe Deshusses, Lauren Douglass, Katherine Dunleavy Emily Enyedi, Rachel Falek, Robert Gerber, Yasmina Gilmanova Lauren Gustainis, Gabrielle Hafez, Emi Harada, Zachery Hong Caroline Houser, Emma Houser, Helen Hubacher, Maura Jones Christopher Joseph, James Jushchuk, Alexandra Kelly, Pil-Ho Lee Matthew Linford, Michaela Lupton, Rebecca Macklin, Kirstin Macleod, Ana Melone, Briana Merrigan, Anna Merritt, Vendela Norman, Loreanne Oh, Katherine Orton, Benjamin Padden, Camila Portocarrero Morales, Nathaniel Pritchard, Ramkumar Rao Elizabeth Riitters, Aron Rimanyi, Maria Romero-Moreno, Matthew Ruston, Mary Scanga, Ben Sistachs, Madeline Smith, Max Smith Clara Superfine, Mya Thin, Cooper Tinsley, Olivia Trogdon Nyo Nyo Tway, Cole Vandermast, Amelia Verkerk, Calvin Wagner Oliver Wang, Tanner Watson, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kendall Wood

#### **7TH GRADE - AB**

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#### 8TH GRADE - A

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William Adams, Fi Aung, Khin Ave Victor Barreto, Daniel Blake Griffin Blanford, Adrian Bowers, Carlen Burch, Rachel Burch Steven Burger, Alexander Callaham, Sergei Callaham, Miguel Castillo, Carolee Clark, Adrian Cole, Celene Collazo, Caroline Colman, Matthew Creatore, Jordan Davis, Holly Dew, Michaela Dodd Camilla Dohlman, Lillian Downing, Brenna Doyle, Shayna Dubois Melaina Dyck, Harper Ellison, Sahar Elloumi, Sarah Flowers Gustav Godtliebsen, Donya Grissett, Catherine Hemmer, Darian Herrera, Julia Houser, Max Hudnell, Bajha Huggins, Miriam Hughes Pegah Khosravi-Kamrani. Matthew Kinert, Hser Ku, Nile Latowsky Hyeon Gyu Lee, Seungcheol Lee, Hannah Lewis-Marlow, Samuel Long Haley Malek, Ferguson Menz, Claire Miller, Taylor Norris Mikela Nylander-French, Cory Oskardmay, Baso Gay Paw, Eh Paw Nalini Peres-Da-Silva, William Phipps, Ashley Prinzhorn, Thomas Reardon, Roey Ringel, Laura Roias, Kimberly Rubish, Marc Schwartz, Rebecca Senior, Noam Shemer, Sarah Sloan, Thomas Stanley, Samuel Strosnider, John Taylor, Thar Thwai, Matthew Trimmer, Kholiswa Tsotetsi, Valeriya Tsygankova, Kiera Turner Aliyah Turrentine, Aidan Understein, Rachel Vann, Thomas Voelkel Aliyah Walker, Margaret Walton, Lay Lai Wei, Emilia Wills, Emma Wilson, Raymond Zhang

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#### 6TH GRADE - AB

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Pearschilled pears

Andrew Walton Hsar Wei, Dennison Whittaker, Jisoo Yu

All Coffees III on So & Teas

Norman, Daniel Nuttall, Claire Peterman, Alexa Phillips, Heather Porter, Elise

the beehive

Jordan Emery Harwell, Margaret Hassel,

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| All Mighty Leaf Teas, 15-ct  |
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### FOR THE RECORD

By tradition, we take the term "revolt" very seriously here in Orange County. The practice goes back prior to the founding of the country; and thanks in part to a little rebellion that brewed up in Orange and Alamance counties in the mid 1700s, the groundwork for a revolution was set.

So when those orange signs proclaiming another Orange County tax revolt started to pop up, folks were indeed curious. Turns out that the group responsible, while it has some local members and interest, is not exactly native to our area, nor is it focused on the recent revaluation.

No, Freedom Works is a GOP-organized effort to recruit new members to the party and to instill in it a more libertarian philosophy when it comes to taxes. The group is led by, among others, former U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Armey, who may or may not have ever heard of Orange County. As the Republican Party strives to rekindle its fires and deal with the drubbing it took in the past election, the group and others like it have been organizing various tea parties and tax rebellions across the country. That's fine. That's their right.

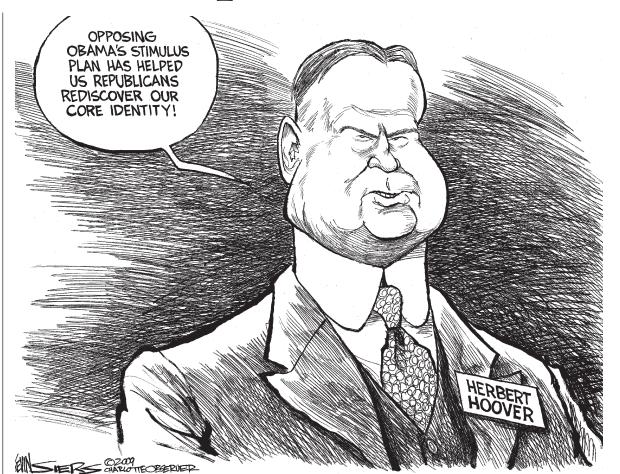
And there is nothing wrong with citizens worried about rising taxes banding together and voicing a collective opinion. It's happened before, albeit without so many signs.

But there is a lot of misinformation out there and we'd like to take a shot at a few corrections. First, revaluations happen on a regular cycle. The last one was in 2005. The next one is in 2013. Second, the recent revaluations for residential properties average 22 percent countywide. The county and the towns will start their budget processes by knocking down the tax rate by that amount to keep the revaluation "revenue neutral." So if your house increased in value by more than 22 percent, you will be paying more taxes. The reason you will be paying more taxes is that your house is worth more money. If you feel like the value of your home rose too high too fast, you are encouraged to file an appeal. We've outlined that process on page 2. You can also review the forms and the process on the county's website.

As they do every year, the towns and the county will review their budgets and decide whether to raise taxes. No budget has been drafted yet and no tax increase has been proposed. Drafts of the budgets begin to emerge in April and there is a series of hearings to give citizens an opportunity to examine and discuss the items and any proposed increase. The budgets are voted on in June in time for the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1. This process is neither a mystery nor a conspiracy.

What can be a little mysterious are the details of those budgets. Finding places to trim are not as easy as saying "cut government waste." Your waste may be someone else's safety net, the neighborhood down the street's curb and gutter repair, another fire truck or a competitive salary for a school nurse or police officer. There is little that any local government does in Orange County that could be described as fluff. There are corners that can be nibbled at in traditional areas - like travel expenses, lunches and office supplies – but it is difficult to find in them even the roughly \$1.25 million that it would take to cut a penny off the tax rate. In the county's case, about half of the money we pay in taxes goes to education. In the case of the towns, providing the police and fire departments and garbage pickup represents the bulk of ongoing expenses. Each town has focused in the past few years on improving infrastructure, which, naturally, costs money.

# Opinion



# The forgotten education perspective

#### **BY CHRIS FITZSIMON**

The legislative budget process begins in public this week as appropriations subcommittees kick off their daily meetings to look for savings to balance next year's budget. The conversation begins just days after news that Gov. Beverly Perdue now expects a \$3.6 billion shortfall next year, a deficit that experts with the N.C. Budget and Tax Center believe could exceed \$4 billion.

Perdue says cuts currently under consideration leave the budget \$500 million short next year even after accounting for the money provided by the federal stimulus package. And the cuts are substantial: according to the Associated Press, 10 percent in most state agencies, 7.5 percent in human services and higher education and 4.5 percent in public schools.

Those cuts are bad enough. Many will result in a loss of services for some of the most vulnerable people in the state. Reducing budgets by another

\$500 million would rip wider holes in the state's already tattered safety net and could reverse progress that's been made in many areas, including education. Public schools in North Carolina are most often brought up in policy circles to lament how they are failing, and there is plenty to complain about. Three out of 10 ninth graders leave high school without a diploma; academic achievement varies widely among schools and school districts, and generally correlates to poverty; and the standardized testing program is confusing at best. The problems are ready ammunition for the market fundamentalists in their efforts to privatize public education and they are sources of understandable frustration to public school supporters, who often remain on the defensive, reluctant

to demand the investments that the schools need and the students deserve.

The conservative mantra is that we shouldn't keep throwing money at schools that are failing our children and instead need radical reform, including tax credits or vouchers for private schools. Politicians who support public education often agree with the analysis of the problem without also acknowledging the improvements the schools have made, making greater investments far more difficult.

The ultimate measure of schools isn't a report comparing them with schools in other states, it's how well they are doing for North Carolina students.

Acknowledging those improvements is especially important this year as legislative leaders decide how much to reduce spending on education, which makes up more than half of the state's annual operating budget, with public schools accounting for 37 percent of the total. It is worth noting that that percentage is less than the 41 percent of the state budget spent on K-12 education just six years ago. The school privatizers will tell you the state hasn't received the return on the education investment that it should have, pointing to the problems that are undeniable. But they also need to be reminded of what the schools have accomplished, using their own sources as measurements, particularly the report released recently by the American Legislative Exchange Council

(ALEC), the national organization of state legislators.

The group's annual report card on public education ranked North Carolina 30th overall, despite ranking 44th in per-pupil expenditure. That was ahead of all neighboring states except Virginia, which spends 25 percent more per student.

North Carolina leads the country in the percentage of improvement in ACT scores in the last 10 years and is sixth in improvement on the SAT. Fourth-grade students ranked 19th in performance on

> a national math test and eighth-graders ranked 22nd. The reading test scores were 35th, leaving a lot of room for improvement, though North Carolina students did better than kids in Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and most other Southern states.

The report finds that even the state's 66.6 percent high school graduation

rate, though totally unacceptable, is higher than most of its neighbors. And North Carolina improved its

# **The New Deal** and the New **New Deal:**

Countering conservative claptrap

#### BY ROBERT REICH

The stock market reached a sixyear low last week. Why? Some blame loose talk (including that of former Fed Chair Alan Greenspan) about nationalizing the nation's banks. Others blame Obama's new plan for helping homeowners who may not be able to pay their mortgages. But the real culprit is the accelerating decline in aggregate demand - consumers, businesses and exports. Companies are losing money because their customers are disappearing. That's precisely why the stimulus is so important – indeed, why many of us fear it's too small.

One of the oddest of right-wing claims is that FDR's New Deal didn't pull America out of the Great Depression, so Barack Obama's "New New Deal" won't either. While it's true that the New Deal didn't end the Great Depression, three points need to be impressed on the hard-pressed conservative mind:

1. The New Deal relieved a great deal of suffering by establishing social safety nets - Unemployment Insurance, Aid for Dependent Children and Social Security for retirees. Most have remained, a worthy legacy. But because the structure of the economy has changed (a much higher percentage of the working population is now employed part-time in several jobs or as independent contractors, for example), there are gaping holes in the safety net, which a New New Deal should fill in order that the Mini-Depression we're experiencing not cause excessive harm.

2. FDR's public works spending did help the economy somewhat. By 1936, the U.S. economy was showing some life. Unemployment was declining and consumers were beginning to buy. But FDR cut back on publicworks spending and the economy sank back into its former torpor. A warning to Obama: Don't worry about so-called "fiscal responsibility" when aggregate demand still falls far short of the economy's total capacity.

3. The Second World War pulled the nation out of the Great Depression because it required that government spend on such a huge scale as to restart the nation's factories, put Americans back to work and push the nation toward its productive capacity. By the end of the war, most Americans were better off than they were before its start. Yes, the national debt ballooned to 120 percent of GDP. But the debt-GDP ratio subsequently declined - not just because post-war spending dropped but because the economy continued to grow as war production converted to the production of consumer goods. Lesson: The danger isn't too much stimulus, it's too little stimulus.

We welcome any ideas on how to keep costs and taxes down. We encourage those of you willing to take a serious crack at budget cutting to send your thoughts in as a letter to the editor.

For those of you who say "enough," we'd like to know "enough what"?

What do we have too much of? What should we curtail? Where should we cut?

Here are the ground rules — the same ones the commissioners and town leaders are playing under: You can't alter the state or federal constitutions, overturn any court rulings or obtain special legislation from the General Assembly.

Have at it, tax revolters. We welcome your leadership and sacrifice.

# THE CARRBORO ITIZEN

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ranking on the ALEC report 10 spots since 2000.

The ultimate measure of schools isn't a report comparing them with schools in other states, it's how well they are doing for North Carolina students.

But the ALEC report and others with similar results are important markers of not just how far the state public school system has to go, but how far it has come.

That progress has been made possible by important investments by state lawmakers, who shouldn't turn back now, budget crisis or not.

Chris Fitzsimon is the director of NC Policy Watch.

Robert Reich was the nation's 22nd secretary of labor and is a professor at the University of California at Berkeley. His latest book is Supercapitalism.

#### **LETTERS**

#### **Clarification needed**

I read with astonishment the response by the Carrboro Planning Board's James Carnahan to Alderman Dan Coleman's remarks regarding the Colleton Crossing issue. Accordingly, I am addressing my response to Mr. Carnahan for some clarification.

Dear Mr. Carnahan: I am confused by your remarks regarding the Carrboro's Connector Roads Policy regarding the Colleton Crossing issue. On one hand you agree that "a re-assessment of the Connector Roads Policy will benefit Carrboro," yet on the other you indicate you "would oppose any effort to water it down." So let me get his straight: you have determined your opposition to a policy that you support?

But you weren't done. You determined that this mass connectivity actually realizes "a critical unstated goal." A critical goal that is unstated? While it is in everyone's interest for fewer miles to be traveled, it follows that the community's interest is served by fewer cars clogging our roads. How can the "unstated goal" of reducing vehicle miles traveled be served by substantially increasing traffic?

You indicate the community's need for common areas. Our community is our common area. We have block parties, children playing in the streets, interactivity among our residents. The absurd notion that hundreds of additional cars passing through our community will enhance the quality of our lives cannot be sensibly supported. But you're consistent. Regarding the downtown condo project and the fact that Carrboro is the most densely populated town in North Carolina, you responded, "I think it's great." In support of that project, their marketing firm's rep said, "Density is extremely important" to a town like Carrboro. Perhaps they are marketing the Colleton Crossing project also.

You claim to support a walkable transit oriented sustainable community. Is it your proposal that increasing the traffic through our community will enhance our walkability? Is it because there will be so much traffic we would rather walk two miles to the market than drive?

Our lives are enhanced. Our small community is more than adequately served connectivity wise. Your contention that adding hundreds, if not thousands, of car trips daily increases the quality of our lives is hardly a logical contention. Growth is easy when quality of life is not a consideration. It seems sensible that advocating for the "unstated goal" of reducing vehicle miles traveled would be to oppose proposals for more vehicles in what already is the state's most densely populated town, not support them. In fact, I am more than happy to make this a fully stated goal.

> KEN WEISS Carrboro

#### Thanks for the support

Even in a difficult economy, supporters of Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center stepped forward Feb. 8 to help ensure we continue to fulfill our promise to provide free, nonclinical cancer support services to anyone affected by cancer - patients, survivors, their families, friends and caregivers.

Nearly 500 people opened their hearts and wallets at this year's A Chocolate Affaire, helping us raise nearly \$60,000 that goes toward our myriad services, including peer-topeer and group support, yoga, massage therapy, forums, lending library and more.

Special thanks go to our honorary co-chairs, Dr. H. Shelton Earp, director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center; Dr. H. Kim Lyerly, director of Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center; and presenting sponsor, GlaxoSmithKline. Great appreciation also goes to the volunteer planning committee: Joy Bryde, chair; Sara Baligh, Joan Boone, Sally Burke, Dale Flexner and Amy Leiser. We're grateful to have all of these longtime supporters come together to assist many individuals who struggle with cancer's impact every day.

And there are so many others: 34 individuals and organizations contributed event sponsorships, 48 restaurants gave scrumptious desserts and beverages, 168 companies and individuals donated auction items and more than 120 volunteers worked tirelessly over several months. Each one furthers our ability to provide encouragement and to empower individuals and families coping with cancer.

We're grateful to all our supporters who help Cornucopia House fulfill our mission. For information, visit www.cornucopiahouse.org or call 919/401-9333.

> MARY LAWRENCE President and CEO Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center

#### CORRECTION

Last week in our Classified Trivia we ran a list of well-known persons and asked: living or dead? We regret to inform you that since the penning of the questions and their publication, pin-up queen Betty Page passed away.

# **REAL ESTATE** & CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED RATES \$5.00/issue for up to 15 words. Words over 15: \$0.35/word/issue Place your classified ad online until MIDNIGHT Tuesday before publication!

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**DUPLEX FOR RENT** 2BR 1Bath secluded but convenient location Chapel Hill All appliances deck large vard 545-9885

#### HOMES FOR SALE



BOLIN FOREST townhouse. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths with updated Kenmore appliances, new vinvl floors in kitchen & full bath, fireplace, and private deck overlooking the woods. \$174,000 Weaver Street Realty 929-5658



BUNGALOW UNDER OAKS updated with hardwood floors, smooth ceilings, big windows. Large yard with fenced garden area. Two storage shed built with wood milled on site. \$139,000 Weaver Street Realty 929-5658



CUSTOM COOK'S KITCHEN Subzero, Thermador, Dacor -oh my! You'll gladly have the in-laws over for Sunday dinner with a kitchen like this. Don't overlook the 9' ceilings, cove lighting, bamboo floors & all the other cool features of this home. \$535,000 Weaver Street Realtv 929-5658





RARE FIND! 109 Deer St, Carrboro. Custom-built, well-maintained home on beautiful 0.8 acre park-like lot. 2,746 sg. ft. with oversized 2 car carport & lots of storage. Huge deck w/ gazebo. Spacious BR's. Formal DR, LR w/ fireplace, Rec. rm. w/ oak wet bar. Open kitchen w/ breakfast bar, dining area & bay window. \$400,000 Fonville Morisey Realty -Chad Lloyd (919)-606-8511



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RUSTIC CONTEMPORARY on one acre lot in Chapel Hill Schools. 4 BR plus a bonus room. Wood floors, vaulted ceilings. FP. multiple decks & porches. Great price for an ole ramblin' rancher... \$235,000 Weaver Street Realty 929-5658

### LAND FOR SALE

LOT FOR SALE Fronts Hillsborough Rd. toward downtown from McDougle School.,44 acre. sewer

2004 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5S 4 dr, auto, black, 104k mi, great car, \$7100 240-4212

#### **HELP WANTED**

**INSTRUCTORS NEEDED** Carrboro Recreation is looking for an experienced baseball instructor to work with 4-6 year olds and parents one day a week on Saturdays from 9-10am April 18-May 16. Pay is \$450. Call 918-7376 for info.

CAMP INSTRUCTORS NEED-**ED** Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department is seeking experienced sport instructors to work the following half day camps. Pay is \$420 (head instructor) and \$360 (assistant instructor). All camps run from 8am-11am.

Field Hockey, July 13-17(Asst) Field Hockey, June 29-July 3 (Asst) Taste of Sports, July 27-31 (Head &

Asst) Ultimate Frisbee, June 22-26 (Head & Asst)

Volleyball, July 20-24 (Head & Asst) For more info call 918-7376.

NON-PROFIT BOOKKEEPER Carrboro/Chapel Hill non-profit seeks experienced bookkeeper to manage daily financial operations. Position is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the organization's financial system including accounts pavable, financial reporting, check disbursements, and budgeting, among other responsibilities. Please send a cover letter and resume to marketing2990@ amail.com.

#### HOME IMPROVE-MENT

#### **STEPHEN A LANE CAR-**PENTRY

Efficiency upgrades, doors and windows, all repairs, custom built-ins, finish/trim work, painting, renovations, furniture repair and refinishing, and more. Call me and we'll discuss your projects. CALL: 619-1966

#### SERVICES

Wholistic facials Cori Roth, Licensed Esthetician(#E3914) & Certified Dr. Hauschka Esthetician. Offering facials featuring lymph stimulation, aromatherapeutic compresses, decollete massage and treatments designed for specific skin conditions. Very healing and relaxing. Contact: 919-933-4748 or divinerose55@gmail.com

# The Twelfth Annual Community Dinner SUNDAY, MARCH 1 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 2009 PERFORMERS (so far):

RON STUTTS / WCHL, EMCEE

JOY WILLIAMS AFRICAN DANCERS IN CONTRACT OF CONTRACT.

PRINCE MIAH & THE GIRL TOYZ IN A THE GIRL TOYZ

GILBERT NEAL East Baile Latino – Latino Dance Club at ECHHS Image: Control Contr

**ALSO** 

AN "EAT LOCAL" THEATER PERFORMANCE AND MORE IN THE WORKS.

# 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, Cedar Grove Branch Library, The Carrboro Cybrary at the Century Center, 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 & The Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce at 102 N.Churton Street.

The Community Dinner is a community building event, crossing economic, racial, religious and ethnic barriers and presenting a wealth of wonderful, culturally diverse food and entertainment. 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.

For more information visit www.communitydinner.org

**CHINESE HISTORY** 



**RIVIA** 

DOWNTOWN CARRBORO Lovely 3BR. 3.5 bath TH off Jones Ferry Rd. Master bedroom can be upstairs or down. Vaulted ceilings, covered porches. Oh, did we mention is was downtown? \$265,000 Weaver Street Realty 929-5658



**OPPORTUNITIES! ELEVATOR** Now Pre-Selling Building 7, with 2 opportunities for an elevator! Rose Walk: New Custom Townhomes by local builder, Homescape Building Company. Choose from 4 floorplans. Prices from the \$290's. 2-3 bedrooms. 2.5 - 3.5 baths. Garages. 1.5 miles to Downtown Carrboro. Chapel Hill/ Carrboro Schools. Walk to UNC Park and Ride and University Lake, Gold Winner - 2008 Parade of Homes! Prudential YSU Neighborhood Marketing. 919-928-9006.

stubbed onto lot, water in street, ready to build. \$143,500. Call Logan with Fonville Morisey Realty at 919-418-4694 for survey or questions.

#### **OFFICE SPACE FOR** LEASE/SALE

FOR SALE OR LEASE Office space at 302 W Weaver St Carrboro. Can be 1 large space with 790sf & 5 offices (\$1225/month lease) or 2 smaller spaces, one 3 offices (\$650/ month lease) and one with 2 offices (\$600/month lease). High speed internet included, shared kitchen. Call Steve or John @ 919-942-0077

#### AUTOS FOR SALE



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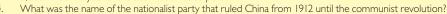
#### CLASSES/INSTRUC-TION

#### **GUITAR LESSONS**

Learning a musical instrument will enhance your mental well being and help keep your mind healthy! From beginner to experienced player, Bryon Settle can help you reach your musical potential. Bryon has been a professional musician for twenty eight years and has played with such notable bands as The Pressure Boys, Trailer Bride, Tift Merrit, Lud and Killer Filler. The teaching environments are peaceful, comfortable spaces that are convenient to either downtown Hillsborough or downtown Durham. 919-644-2381 or email bwsettle@gmail.com.

Learn how to: dig potatoes, pick peas, pull carrots and make lunch. Spend time with the ponies Buddy. Lulu and Romeo; feed, groom and ride them. Explore fields, woods and streams at Finnabar Farm Nature Camp. Open house Saturdays in March and April. (919) 929-6009 or greenponygarden. com for info.

- What year was the massacre at Tiananmen Square?
- What was the term for the American foreign policy 2. relating to China developed around the turn of the 20th century
- 3. What term was given to the massive military retreat undertaken by the Red Army in 1934, which covered almost 8.000 miles in a year and led to Mao's rise to power?



- What was the name given to the group of Communist Party leaders who were arrested and removed from their 5 positions in 1976, following the death of Mao Zedong, that included Mao's widow, Jiang Qing (his fourth wife), and three of her close associates.
- In what century did Marco Polo visit China? 6.
- Who was the leader of China from 1980 until his death in 1997?
- What was the name of the 10-year campaign launched by Mao in 1966 that included massive purges of intellectuals and 8. political opponents, Communist Party power struggles and the elevation of Mao to almost godlike status?
- What year did the communist revolution declare victory and establish the People's Republic of China? What is the most common Chinese dialect? 10
- In 1957, Mao began an economic campaign to increase the production of steel and to raise agricultural production to 11. twice existing levels. What was the name for this ambitious program?
- 12 T or F: The Great Wall of China is visible to the naked eye from the moon.

9. 1949; 10. Mandarin; 11. Great Leap Forward; 12. False 1. 1989; Z. Open Door Policy; 3. Long March; 4. Kuomintang; 5. Cang of Four; 6. 13th; 7. Den Zoa Peng; 8. Cultural Revolution;



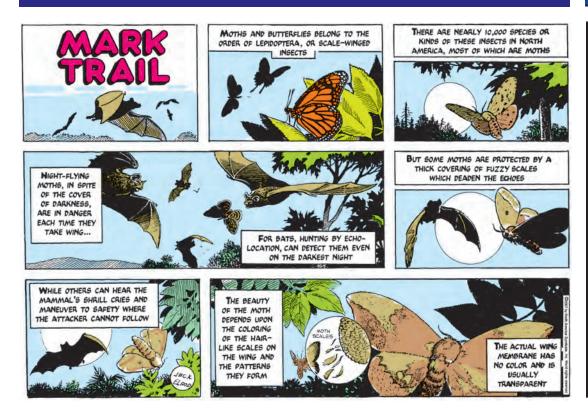
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#### **CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:**

Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't go to yours. - Yogi Berra, talking to Mickey Mantle about all the funerals they've been to that year

# **SUPPORT LOCAL ADVERTISERS!**



UNIQUE SUMMER CAMP

# Almanac



It helps to lie on the ground to look up into the flower of an American trout lily.

#### **FLORA** FROM PAGE I

For years and years, I've believed that we have only one species of trout lily in our area, but now I'm advised that we have two. The common one that we see in our local woods is the dimpled trout lily, Erythronium umbilicatum, thusly called because of the little indentation at the tip of the seed pod. The more common one flowers earlier and is smaller than the rarer American trout lily, E.

americanum, which is larger and flowers a little later. If you walk different trails frequently, you may discover both of them.

Don't be concerned about which one you are seeing; just make certain you get yourself out in the woods to see them, to "hold infinity in the palm of your hand." If you don't get out on weekly walks at this time of year, you're missing a lot.

If you want a few trout lilies in your own garden, check out the Botanical Garden's plant sale. There are pots of seedling trout lilies on the sale benches right now. Get a couple and in a few years you'll have your own little patch and you won't have to panic about missing them!

Special Note: I'm going out on a trout lily search on Saturday, March 7, in Carrboro's Adams Tract nature preserve. You're welcome to join me at 3:00 p.m. at the trailhead kiosk below the playground of Wilson Park. Bring along some kids to lead the way!



### Willie Mae Houck, 1984

battered silver aluminum frying pan hangs on a wooden plaque over the lunch counter at Sutton's Drug Store in Chapel Hill. It honors 32-year-veteran shortorder cook Willie Mae Houck, who, from 1956-1988, was a force to be reckoned with. "She was the hardest working woman I ever saw," says Sutton's lunch counter manager Don Pinney, who worked with Willie Mae for 10 years before she was forced to quit after a heart attack on the job. Don, himself a 30-year-veteran at Suttons, had Willie Mae's venerable frying pan mounted. When I made this photo in 1984 of Willie Mae and wait staffer Margaret Durham, I remember Willie Mae giving me a hard time; she ran that grill with an iron fist.

But underneath that exterior, Willie Mae "was like family," Don remembers. "Willie knew about everybody's order when they came in the door," he says, shaking his head. "She was something else!" Sutton's owner and pharmacist John Woodard agrees. When Willie Mae died of a second heart attack that same year, practically the whole town turned out for her service. Woodard remembers a law-enforcement officer standing at attention at every intersection all the way from Walker's Funeral Home to the rural burial, all saluting as Willie Mae passed by. "They literally stopped traffic for her at every cotton-picking intersection. She was just a little ol' short-order cook — but she knew everybody. I've never seen anything to beat it!"



#### A THOUSAND WORDS BY JOCK LAUTERER

Do you have an important old photo that you value? Send your 300 dpi scan to jock@email.unc.edu and include the story behind the picture. Because every picture tells a story. And its worth? A thousand words.





Some things just go together

Price includes:
eup of soup made fresh daily
weaver street house salad
slice of handcrafted bread from Weaver Street Market Baker
Moustitutions available on this special offer. Ask your server for details

# **TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

Enhance your mid-week meal with excellent wines at an incredible price!

Bricco dei Tati Cortese '07 (white) Villa Sorono Pinot Noir delle Venezie '06 (red) Vallevo Montepulciano d'Abruzzo '07 (red)

Offer available during Lunch & Dinner on Tuesdays & Thursdays: Enjoy your choice of the 3 wines listed

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Price includes:1 cheese pizza

• A second pizza of your choice from the menu

 Large Weaver Street House Salad served family style

Extra pizza toppings available for \$2 each.

No substitutions available on this special offer. Tax not included.



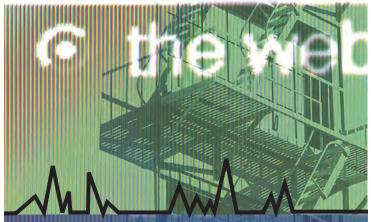


Weaver Street





Weaver Street Realty 929-5658 WeaverStreetRealty.com downtown Carrboro since 1982



**...Biz Blog ...** Hankering for a local angle on breaking business news? *The Citizen* has started the Orange County Housing & Economy blog (carrborocitizen.com/housing) to sate your jones. In addition to late-breaking news, the blog also features personnel and business announcements. Got something you'd like us to post? For consideration send it to:

Margot Lester: margot@carrborocitizen.com