

FRIDAY
30% Chance of Precip
93/70 °F

SATURDAY
70% Chance of Precip
88/66 °F

SUNDAY
0% Chance of Precip
90/72 °F

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



Graduates
See page 8



A.J. Bullard, left, describing leaf characteristics of white mulberry cultivar "Pakistan" to Liam Shannon. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

'Lived to learn it!'

"Lived to learn it" was A.J. Bullard's response when I queried him last week about his accumulated mulberry knowledge. Now, A.J. is one of those characters who are really keen on plants. Some folks consider such a person passionate, but I like the affectionate term I've heard: "plant nut!"

A.J. is one of a special breed whose profession is one thing and whose life pursuit is something else. A.J.'s pursuit is native trees, shrubs and woody vines. He planted the first tree on his land back in 1965, the same year he opened his dental practice in Mount Olive. His collection now includes an orchard of native blueberry species and cultivars, native grapes, pawpaws, persimmons and an impressive collection of hardy, non-native kiwis.

In addition, he has just about every Carolina species of catbrier, *Smilax*, in cultivation along the perimeter of his Ericaceae (heath family) garden. That's characteristic of a "plant nut," and he has "lived to learn" about them all.

Over the years A.J. has visited botanists and horticulturists at N.C. State, UNC and Duke seeking help on identification and propagation of native species, and over the years professional plant people have come to appreciate that A.J. has "lived to learn" many of the secrets of plants that challenge the professionals.

So I went to visit him at his arboretum between Calypso and Mount Olive. I wanted his help sorting through the taxonomic mess of mulberries. Accompanying me was Ashe County-native and fellow plant enthusiast Liam Shannon, who recently moved with his family to Hillsborough.

He led us immediately to a white mulberry cultivar, *Morus alba*, "Pakistan," that was imported from Islamabad and quarantined for two years at Beltsville, Md., before he planted it in 1986. It has delicious, big, perfectly in-between-sweet-and-tart black fruit.

A.J. explained that definitive identification of mulberries is

SEE **FLORA** PAGE 10

Claremont plans worry public

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CARRBORO – Following the April approval of the second iteration of Claremont South, the developer has again proposed revising the development, this time such that it could include a hotly contested charter school.

On Tuesday, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen reviewed only the affordable-housing component of the project, proposed for 38 acres on the south side of Homestead Road, north

of Wexford. The board had been previously scheduled to consider an expedited review of the modified project, but the developer withdrew that request late last week and has yet to submit a formal application for the modifications.

In 2009, the board approved Claremont Phases IV and V, which were proposed to include 96 residential units on the same property. However, Omar Zinn of Parker Louis LLC, the developer, returned to the board in 2010 to discuss the state of the hous-

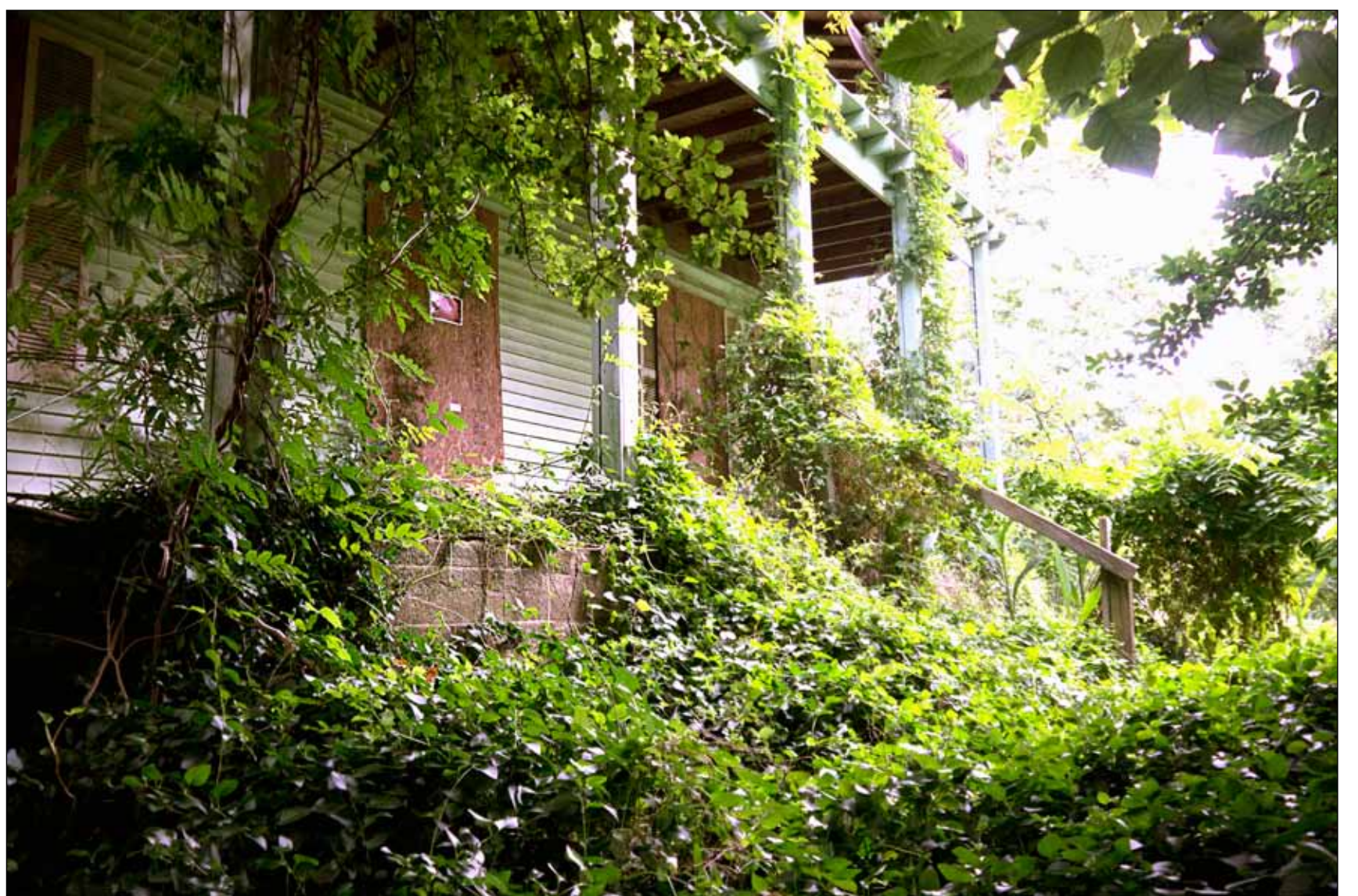
ing market, and then worked to develop a revised proposal including 92 single-family residences and a small commercial component, which the board approved in April.

Earlier this month, Zinn came back to the town with early plans to again revise the project to increase the amount of commercial land, add a charter school to the site, change a portion of the housing to either townhomes or apartments and increase the overall density to 117 residential units. Zinn said the residential units

would consist of 37 single-family homes and 70 to 80 multi-family units, either townhomes or apartments. Twenty-five percent of the units would be size-limited units, per the town's requirements. The town requires developers to either include 25 percent size-limited units or 15 percent affordable housing.

When developers choose not to include affordable housing, they are required to meet with the board to

SEE **CLAREMONT** PAGE 9



The front porch of the Hogan-Rogers house sits unoccupied and overgrown. Though the historic house is currently in disrepair, it could find new life as a community center in the Rogers-Eubanks neighborhood. PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

A Southern gem's fate

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

Ernest Dollar, executive director for the Chapel Hill Historic Preservation Society, likes to refer to uncovering the history of the Hogan-Rogers house as his real-life Oprah Winfrey episode.

The history of the house has a little something for everyone – elements of discovery, drama, mystery and what Dollar hopes will be a happy ending.

Dollar first heard about the house, located at 1614 Purefoy Drive near the historic Rogers Road neighborhood, when the fire de-

partment was talking about burning it for training exercises and the neighborhood was banding together to try to save it.

"I heard the words 'historic house,' and my ears perked up," Dollar said. The next thing he knew, he was getting a tour of the historic sites in the Rogers-Eubanks neighborhood from David Caldwell, a Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA) member.

To the ordinary passerby, the two-story house is inconspicuous, a dilapidated structure with all the windows boarded up. But

SEE **HOGAN-ROGERS** PAGE 3



1614 Purefoy Drive is in disrepair, but the site's history makes it worth saving, says Ernest Dollar. PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

Charterwood back on the table, neighbors concerned

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – Following a January vote that seemed to signify the end of discussion on the Charterwood project, the mixed-use development proposed for 1641 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard was back before the Chapel Hill Town Council on Monday.

The six-building 278,000-square-foot project is proposed to include up to 154 residential units – nine townhomes and 145 apartments – and up to 73,000 square feet of office and retail space on 9.3 acres of a 15.7-acre property at 1641 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., just south of Weaver Dairy Road.

In January, the council voted 5-3 to approve the project, but because neighbors had submitted a valid protest petition, supermajority approval was required, and the rezoning needed was thus not approved. However, the developer, WCA Partners LLC, has redrawn the lines of the rezoning request such that the protest petition is no longer valid.

According to Lacy Reaves, an attorney for the developer, the buffer areas between the project's buildings and nearby homes were mistakenly included in the initial rezoning application, and when the buffers were removed from the request the petition was no longer valid. Under state law, when a protest petition signed by owners of at least 5 percent of the property within 100 feet of a proposed rezoning is filed, approval by a three-quarters majority is required, rather than a simple majority.

A number of residents of Northwoods V, which neighbors the property, have expressed opposition to the project, citing concerns about buffers, building heights and flooding. On Monday, neighbors continued to state their concerns with the project.

Robin Currin, an attorney representing a number of Northwood V residents, argued that the rezoning was effectively denied when it did not receive supermajority approval, which would mean that under town ordinances the project could not come back to the town for another year.

"There is no difference between failing to get the correct number of votes and a denial," she said.

"It's our position that this application is back too early, and if it is approved it will be done in violation of that ordinance, and it will be subject to legal challenge."

According to town staff, no action was taken on the rezoning since it did not receive enough votes for either approval or denial, so the waiting period would not apply.

Currin also noted that the LLC applying for the rezoning was in dissolution, according to the Secretary of State, preventing the business from entering into new projects. However, as of Tuesday, WCA Partners had been reinstated, according to the Secretary of State website.

Martha Bell, a resident of Northwoods V, questioned the need for the project.

"Why does our community need to take every piece of undeveloped land

SEE **CHARTERWOOD** PAGE 7

County approves FY 2012-13 budget, no tax hike

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

By a unanimous vote, the Orange County Board of Commissioners officially approved the 2012-13 county budget at their Tuesday meeting, the last meeting before summer break.

At a work session on June 12 the commissioners approved a resolution of intent to adopt the FY 2012-13 Orange County Annual Operating Budget after finding and allocating an additional \$1.5 million to fund schools and nonprofit services, which both saw significant budget cuts.

The Orange County budget totals \$180 million and maintains the current special-district tax rate while also,

SEE **COUNTY BUDGET** PAGE 7

INSIDE

Topo Distillery opens

See page 4

MUSIC CALENDAR



MARCIA BALL
Saturday June 23
The ArtsCenter

THURSDAY JUNE 21

The Cave: LATE: Coastal Vision, The Spiveys, No Eyes
Chapel Hill Underground: Elder, Windhand, Church of Wolves. 9pm

City Tap: Laura Thurston. 8pm
The Depot: Rock Bottom. 8pm
Linda's Bar and Grill: Robert Griffen. 7:30pm
Local 506: Big Something, Big Daddy Love. 9pm. \$7

Southern Rail: Thee Thee, Rozwell Kid, Bratcore. 9:30pm
University Mall: Black and Blue. 6pm

Weaver St. Market (Carr): Milagro Saints. 6pm

Weaver St. Market (Hills): Sinful Savage Tigers. 6:30pm

FRIDAY JUNE 22

ArtsCenter: Cedric Watson, Bijou Creole. 8pm
Bynum Front Porch: Hot Rooster. 7pm. Donations

Coffee Driade: Off the Road Band. 8pm
Carolina Inn: The Morning After. 5pm
Cat's Cradle: The Whiteout Rave Anniversary. 8pm. \$7/10

The Cave: EARLY: Magenta Fruits LATE: Twigs, The Chickenhawks

City Tap: Mary Johnson Rockers. 8pm. Dmitri Resnik. 10pm
The Depot: Ellerbe Creek Band. 8:30pm

The Kraken: Be The Moon. 8pm
Local 506: TOW3RS, Company, Estrangers. 9:30pm. \$5

Southern Rail: Alex Bowers and Friends. 7:30pm

Southern Village: Sisters of the South. 6pm. Free

SATURDAY JUNE 23

ArtsCenter: Marcia Ball. 8pm
Coffee Driade: Beez Knees, Hee Young. 8pm
Carolina Brewery (Pitts): Puritan Rodeo. 7pm

Cat's Cradle: Brother Esau, South Wing. 9pm. \$6/8
The Cave: EARLY: Shannon O'Connor LATE: Uglyography, Gabe Smiley, Louder Moonlight

City Tap: Cortete. 8pm
The Depot: North Columbia. 8:30pm

The Kraken: Rootzie. 9pm
Local 506: Tripp, Hectorina, Mark Holland. 9pm. \$6

Nightlight: The Evil Tenors, The Joy Kills, The Spacemen. 9:30pm. \$5

Southern Rail: Lee Gildersleeve and Bad Dog Blues Band. 6pm

SUNDAY JUNE 24

The Cave: EARLY: Completely Off Balance. \$5
Chapel Hill Underground: Boykiller, Flesh Wounds. 6pm

City Tap: Sarah Shook and The Devil. 3pm
The Kraken: Ayr Mountaineers with Jennifer Curtis and Nathan Golub. 9pm

Local 506: Omar Bajwa, Tanaka, Maraqaba. 9pm. \$5

Weaver St. Market (Carr): Laura Ridgeway and Friends. 11am. Free

MONDAY JUNE 25

The Cave: LATE: Ocean VS Daughter, England 1819. \$5
Local 506: The Mynabirds, Sean Bones, The Design. 8:30pm. \$9-11

Nightlight: Les Rhinoceros.

11pm. \$3

TUESDAY JUNE 26

Carrboro Century Center: Randy Granger. 7pm. \$6
The Cave: LATE: Nightmare Sonata, Army of Infants

Nightlight: Cheezface, Balaz Pandi, CxFx, TJ Maiani and Crowmeat Bob
Southern Rail: Jeremy Gilchrist, Sarah Howell, Rob Nance, Alex Joustra. 9pm

WEDNESDAY JUNE 27

Cat's Cradle: Los Campesinos! Yellow Ostrich, Moonlight Bride. 8:30pm. \$15

The Cave: Great White Caps. \$5
Local 506: Modern Skirts, The District Attorneys, Left Outlet. 9pm. \$7-8

Nightlight: Broadcloth, Carl Testa, Scrimshaw. 9:30pm. \$5

THURSDAY JUNE 28

The Cave: LATE: National Hotel Sound System, The Goodnight Darlings. \$5
Chapel Hill Underground: Buried Underground. 7pm. \$13/night, \$25/3-day pass

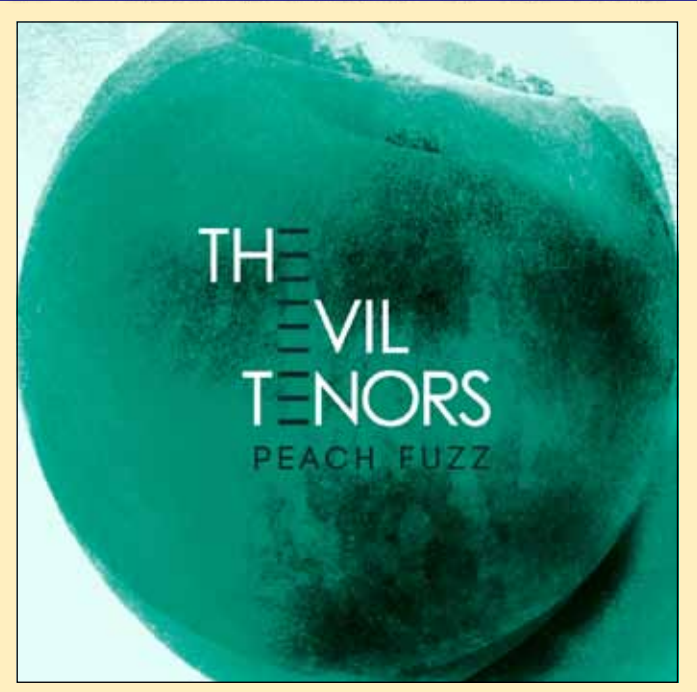
City Tap: The Oblations. 8pm
The Depot: Mary Rocap and Friends. 7:30pm

The Kraken: Rootzie. 8pm
Local 506: Moonface, La Big Vic. 8:30pm. \$10

Nightlight: The Dogwoods, The Harmed Brothers, Stripmall Ballads. 9:30pm. \$5

Southern Rail: Doug Largent Trio. 7pm. Michael Rank, Marc E. Smith, Daniel Snyder, Rich McLaughlin. 9:30pm

SPOTLIGHT: THE EVIL TENORS



The Nightlight will host a thunderous lineup of The Evil Tenors, The Joy Kills and The Spacemen this Saturday, June 23.

The Evil Tenors are a new creation by Nathan White featuring an ensemble of John Harrison (North Elementary), Mas Sato (Sames) and Stuart Cullinan (Tennis and the Mennonites). This performance arrives after their debut EP, *Peach Fuzz*. Beautifully engaging yet uneasy, the album is 20 minutes of bitter and optimistic pop tunes fueled by '90s indie-grit. Also along for the show are the glamorous grits of The Joy Kills. Their sound fuses punk ethos with dirty blues licks. And to top off the night is indie-alternative group The Spacemen.

The doors will open at 9 p.m. and the show kicks off at 9:30. Tickets are \$5.

MOVIE LISTINGS

Call for exact showtimes.

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM

309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030
Jaws (Friday only); King Kong (Friday only); Bernie; On Golden Pond; Out of Africa

CHELSEA THEATER

Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel; Seeking a Friend for the End of the World; The Intouchables

THE LUMINA

Southern Village, 932-9000
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter; Brave; Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted; Marvel's The Avengers; Prometheus; Rock of Ages

REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6

120 Banks Drive, 933-8600
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D; Brave 3D; Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D; Prometheus; Rock of Ages; That's My Boy

THE VARSITY

123 E. Franklin St., 967-8665
21 Jump Street; The Cabin in the Woods; Chernobyl Diaries; The Lucky One

<p>CAT'S CRADLE</p> <p>WE 6/27 LOS CAMPESINOS!</p> <p>TU 7/10 ANDREW BIRD NC MUSEUM OF ART (RAL)</p> <p>FR 7/27 DELTA RAE HOMETOWN CD RELEASE PARTY!</p>	<p>TH 6/28 MOONFACE LOCAL 506</p> <p>SU 7/29 THE ZOMBIES</p>
<p>FR 6/22 WHITEOUT RAVE 1-YR ANNIVERSARY! **(\$15/\$18)</p> <p>SA 6/23 BROTHER ESAU / SOUTH WING**(\$6/8)</p> <p>WE 6/27**(\$15) LOS CAMPESINOS! W/YELLOW OSTRICH AND MOONLIGHT DRIVE</p> <p>SA 6/30 DIRTY SOUTH FEST! WITH CRO MAGS, PIETASTERS, THE QUEERS, FLATFOOT 56, DUCKY BOYS, HUB CITY STOMPERS, PATRIOT, ANTAGONIZERS ATL, UNIT 6, BAD IDEA **(\$30/\$35) 4PM SHOW</p> <p>SA 7/7 "WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?" ARCHERS OF LOAF DOCUMENTARY NORTH CAROLINA PREMIERE! **(\$6/\$8)</p> <p>TH 7/12 SUPERCHUNK W/GROSS GHOST**(\$15)</p> <p>FR 7/13 BEST COAST W/THOSE DARLINS**(\$17/\$19)</p> <p>SA 7/14 CYNAMATIK PRESENTS COLOSSEUM GAMES**</p> <p>MO 7/16**(\$10/\$12) CROCODILES W/ETERNAL SUMMERS</p> <p>TH 7/19 THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM W/DAVE HAUSE**(\$20)</p> <p>FR 7/20**(\$10/\$12) VALENT THORR W/HOLY GRAIL, ROYAL THUNDER, THE KICKASS</p> <p>FR 7/27 CD RELEASE PARTY! DELTA RAE**(\$12) W/A CITY ON A LAKE AND CHRIS HENDRICKS</p> <p>SU 7/29**(\$32/\$35) THE ZOMBIES</p> <p>WE 8/1 JOSH RITTER**(\$20)</p> <p>FR 8/3 COSMIC CHARLIE**</p> <p>SA 8/4 LITTLE FEAT**(\$30) W/THE VILLAINS</p> <p>SA 8/11 SEBADOH**(\$15)</p> <p>SU 8/12 MEWITHOUTYOU W/BURIED BEDS AND KEVIN DEVINE**(\$15)</p>	<p>TU 8/21**(\$17/\$20) THE BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE W/MAGIC CASTLES</p> <p>FR 8/24 HOLY GHOST TENT REVIVAL**(\$10/\$12)</p> <p>SA 9/8**(\$15) WHO'S BAD? (THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE)</p> <p>SU 9/9 YEASAYER**(\$22/\$25)</p> <p>MO 9/10 STREET DOGS W/DOWNTOWN STRUTS, ROLL THE TANKS, KOFFIN KATS**(\$13/\$15)</p> <p>TU 9/11 ARIEL PINK'S HAUNTED GRAFFITI W/BODYGUARD AND MOON DIAGRAMS**(\$15)</p> <p>WE 9/12**(\$12/\$15) SUPERSUCKERS</p> <p>SA 9/15**(\$18/\$20) THE FEELIES</p> <p>TU 9/18**(\$17/\$20) THE ADICTS</p> <p>SU 9/23**(\$15/\$18) TWIN SHADOW W/NIKI AND THE DOVE</p> <p>MO 9/24 MARGARET CHO "MOTHER"**(\$25)</p> <p>MO 10/1 POLICA**(\$12/\$14)</p> <p>TH 10/4 GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR**(\$22/\$25)</p> <p>SA 10/6 EASY STAR ALL-STARS W/AGGROLITES**(\$15/\$17)</p> <p>WE 10/10**(\$15/\$17) MELVINS LITE</p> <p>TH 10/11 - FR 10/12 - SA 10/13 YR15... 15 YEAR CELEBRATION FOR YEP ROC RECORDS! W/NICK LOWE, ROBYN HITCHCOCK, FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE, ELENI MANDELL, JOHN DOE, THE SADIES & MANY MORE**</p> <p>WE 10/24**(\$18/\$20) LAGWAGON W/DEAD TO ME, FLATLINERS, USELESS ID</p> <p>TH 11/1 ELECTRIC SIX**</p>

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Briefs

CVS neighborhood meeting

A meeting to discuss the proposed development project for 201 N. Greensboro St. will be held at Carrboro Town Hall on Wednesday. Neighbors of the property are invited to ask questions and comment on the project, which includes a CVS. Email Chris Bostic at chris.bostic@kimley-horn.com with any questions you would like addressed at the meeting.

OC Democratic convention delegates

Orange County will be sending four delegates to the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte Sept. 4-6. Jake Geller-Goad, vice-chair of the Booker Creek precinct; Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt; Orange County Democratic Party Chair Matt Hughes; and Rep. Verla Insko were all elected to attend the convention as delegates from Orange County.

Chatham budget maintains tax rate

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted their 2012-13 budget on Monday. The adopted budget maintains the property-tax rate at 62.19 cents while increasing funding by 2 percent for supplements for teachers and teaching assistants. The Chatham County budget also gives at least a 2 percent increase in pay to government employees who have not received a raise in four years and are estimated by the county to be receiving salaries 15 percent below their counterparts in surrounding local governments.

Portions of Pumpkin Loop closed

Portions of the Pumpkin Loop running trail are closed due to construction of the utility ductbank across Carolina North. Access to the running trail at the Orange County Human Services Center, the Seymour Center, Chapel Ridge Apartments, the Glenn Heights neighborhood and at the Municipal Drive construction staging area are closed. Additionally, a portion of the Wormhole Trail that accesses the Pumpkin Loop is closed. These sections will remain closed until late fall or early winter but will be opened for the annual Pumpkin Run in October. For the latest information on trail use, visit facebook.com/pages/Carolina-North-Forest/179464238759273

CW route stop closure

Due to construction on West Poplar Avenue, the bus stop at Raven Lane will be temporarily closed until further notice. Passengers may board the buses at alternative stops at Lilac Drive and Davie Road at West Poplar. For more information, call (919) 969-4900 and press 1 or email chtransit@townofchapelhill.org

Carolina North info meeting

Local residents along with faculty, staff and students of UNC are invited to a public information meeting about activities at Carolina North. The meeting will take place on Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Magnolia Conference Room of the Giles F. Horney Building at 103 Airport Drive. The public will be given updates on construction, an upcoming remediation study and modified conservation areas.

ALERT targets alcohol retailers

The Alcohol Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) recently conducted an age compliance-check operation in Chapel Hill of retailers that sell alcohol. Four stores in Chapel Hill were charged with selling alcohol to minors: the ABC store in Meadowmont, Cosmic Cantina, Food Lion Store 480 on Fordham Boulevard and Los Potrillos Mexican Restaurant. ALERT is made up of officers from UNC Public Safety and the Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough police departments and was created to monitor the sale of alcohol to underage customers.

Interim CEO at Chapel Hill Y

Ralph Yohe has been brought into the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA to serve as the organization's interim CEO. Yohe was recently the interim CEO for the Melrose YMCA in Massachusetts and prior to that was the president and CEO of the South Shore YMCA, also in Massachusetts. Yohe began his new position in Chapel Hill-Carrboro on June 4 and will continue to serve as interim CEO until a new CEO is chosen.

BOA approves sewer funds

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — The Carrboro Board of Aldermen on Tuesday voted unanimously to approve the use of \$9,000 in affordable-housing funds to connect the Hillsborough Road Cooperative to the public sewer system.

The Hillsborough Road Cooperative, two houses at the corner of Hillsborough Road where it meets North Greensboro Street, is part of the Weaver Community Housing Association. WCHA requested \$9,000 of the \$27,000 needed to connect the two houses to the public sewer system after the cooperative's aging septic system began to fail in April.

The town's Affordable Housing Special Revenue fund was

created by the town in 2007 to assist with increasing the stock of affordable, safe and decent housing in Carrboro. Developers make payments to the fund in lieu of providing affordable housing within projects. Community Home Trust executive director Robert Dowling recommended the use of the fund — which currently has \$11,750 — for this project.

WCHA founded the Hillsborough Road Cooperative in 2001, providing affordable housing to those earning 80 percent or less of the area median income. The board approved the request for funds with the caveat that new residents would be required to earn 60 percent or less of the area median income, with current residents grandfathered in under the previous 80 percent

standard.

"We want to make sure we're not subsidizing people who have access to larger amounts of money," board member Jacquie Gist said.

The board also asked that residents maintain the property.

"I'm a little reluctant to allocate funds to a place that is so often such a mess," Gist said. "It has been really, really messy for years, which is insulting to the neighbors that live around it."

WCHA representative Devin Ross said that residents had recently been making more of an effort to maintain the property and that they would continue to work to keep it clean.

"What we have been seeing around the clock is a renewed interest in civic responsibility," Ross said. "I think the property looks

better than it has in awhile."

"A lot of people over the years have thought that various things would be useful and they brought them there for us," he continued. "These things don't belong in our yard — they belong in a landfill, and that's where they're going."

Board member Randee Haven-O'Donnell encouraged residents to seek help with cleaning up the property by reaching out to the community, if they felt help was needed.

Board member Sammy Slade, who lives in another WCHA cooperative, said the organization is an inspirational model for affordable housing.

"The people who live there are very self-sufficient, inspiring people, and I think are a huge asset for Carrboro," he said.

HOGAN-ROGERS

FROM PAGE 1

when Dollar saw it, he was immediately intrigued.

Not only was the fire department eyeing the building but St. Paul AME Church had recently bought the land the house was on and was in the process of obtaining permits to put a new complex on the site.

"Right then and there we knew we had to act fast to find out some way to preserve this house," Dollar said.

With the help of preservation society intern Lauren Poole, Dollar discovered that not only was the house of historic value, it was of rare historic value for multiple reasons.

Built in 1843 by Thomas Lloyd Hogan of the Chapel Hill Hogan family, the plantation home is one of only seven antebellum homes in Chapel Hill, meaning it was built before the Civil War.

"Once we found that, we realized how endangered this house was and how much this house means to Chapel Hill history," Dollar said.

For that reason alone the house had major historic value, but what Dollar and Poole discovered next made the house even more special.

"The Hogan family probably lost possession of the house in the early 20th century," Dollar said. "Then Sam Rogers Jr., the son of former slaves, bought the



The historic Hogan-Rogers house on Purefoy Road was built in 1843 by Thomas Lloyd Hogan.

PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

house and then lost it during the Great Depression."

According to historic documents, Rogers' wife Mary Hogan was the daughter of Morris Hogan, who was the son of Alexander Hogan, the plantation owner Thomas Lloyd Hogan's son, and Eliza Burse, one of the Hogan's slaves.

Dollar and Poole found out that the house passed between white and black owners throughout its history, and that Morris Hogan was not the only mixed-race child of the Hogan family.

"This was not an isolated incident," Dollar said.

Having learned the extensive history of the house, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, St. Paul AME Church and RENA, along with the preserva-

tion society, are trying the save it.

One of their ideas is to move the structure to the Rogers Road neighborhood and convert it into a community center as part of the county's landfill-mitigation efforts. Additionally, Dollar is hoping that St. Paul AME Church will preserve the home's basement, which is where the Hogan's slaves lived, as part of a museum they are planning to build on the site.

Dollar said the cost to move the house will be around \$40,000, but that to totally renovate the structure it could cost \$600,000, which Penny Rich, a member of the Rogers Road mitigation committee and the Chapel Hill Town Council, said

is money they don't have but are trying to find through grants and loans.

"It's really frustrating because there is money out there, that's true," Rich said. "But what you can apply for and how the money can be used is very different."

The Orange County Board of Commissioners recently set aside \$120,000 of their FY 2012-13 budget for the community center, but it's unclear exactly how the money will be used.

"There is a lot of passion around that house," Rich said. "When you find something like that, that has so much history, you don't want to lose it. It is a really important part of our heritage."

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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AGENDA: CARRBORO BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2012
7:30 P.M., CARRBORO TOWN HALL

A. CONSENT
(1) Supplemental Agreement with NCDOT – Wilson Park Multi-Use Path
(2) Authorization for the Town Manager to Award a Contract for Pine Street Sidewalk Construction
(3) Supplemental Agreement with NCDOT – Morgan Creek Greenway
(4) FY 2011-12 Budget Amendment

B. PUBLIC HEARING
(1) Public Hearing on a Land Use Ordinance Text Amendment to Establish Jordan Rule Nutrient Limits for New Development
(2) Public Hearing for Land Use Ordinance Amendment – Changes to Signage Allocation and Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for the 300 E. Main Street Master Sign Plan
(3) Public Hearing on Land Use Ordinance Text Amendment Related to Affordable Housing Provision in Relation to Community Home Trust Request
(4) Ballentine AIS CUP Minor Modification Related to Affordable Housing
(5) Public Hearing on a Land Use Ordinance Text Amendment Adding a Stormwater Volume Control Requirement

C. MATTERS BY TOWN CLERK
D. MATTERS BY TOWN MANAGER
E. MATTERS BY TOWN ATTORNEY
F. MATTERS BY BOARD MEMBERS

www.townofcarrboro.org

Top of the Hill opens local, organic distillery

BY ROSE LAUDICINA
Staff Writer

Great beer, a wide variety of food, a fun atmosphere and a prime location on Franklin Street, especially for watching UNC games, are all things Top of the Hill is known for – and soon local distillery will be added to the list.

While Topo Distillery's two products, vodka and whiskey, aren't available for purchase for another eight weeks, the distillery itself is already open.

Scott Maitland, founder and owner of Top of the Hill, came up with the idea to open a distillery in Chapel Hill five and a half years ago, as he became increasingly frustrated with his inability to brew truly local beer.

"It was a chance to do something I always wanted to do – a local, all-organic distillery," Maitland said.

Although Top of the Hill produces "local" beer, Maitland said

his beers, along with beers from other breweries in the state, are not truly local because the ingredients used are not produced locally.

But with the distillery, they are.

Using 75 acres of wheat grown organically in Scotland Neck, Maitland, his distiller George Dusek and assistant distiller Keith Crissman are able to produce around 10,000 cases of product.

"It is neat that we can create a local product that is literally 100 miles from grain to glass," Maitland said. "We are creating a world-class product, and I hope the locals embrace it and realize the effort we are making."

For now the distillery, housed in the former *Chapel Hill News* building on West Franklin Street, is focused on producing vodka and wheat whiskey.

"Our vodka has a naturally sweet quality," Maitland said, adding that because of this people

will be able to drink the premium vodka straight and not just use it for mixing.

"People ask me why they would need a good vodka if they're going to mix it with stuff," Maitland said. "I answer with two reasons: With our vodka you don't need to mix it to make it taste good, and the taste you are covering up [with lesser vodkas] ends up being your hangover tomorrow."

In using wheat to make the whiskey, the need to age the whiskey is eliminated. Topo Distillery has become one of only five distilleries in the country to make wheat whiskey.

Eventually Maitland hopes to expand the Topo Spirits brand to include gin and a new type of rum called sorghum rum. Currently in the United States, rum is classified as being made from sugarcane; however, since sugarcane does not grow in North Carolina and sorghum does, Maitland hopes to create a new type of rum



Topo owner Scott Maitland gives a tour of the new distillery that opened on Franklin Street. The distillery will produce whiskey and vodka. PHOTO BY DUNCAN HOGE

in keeping with his mission to produce a strictly local product.

Although Top of the Hill, affectionately known locally as Topo, already has tremendous brand recognition in Orange County, Maitland wants to be known across the state and become North Carolina's distillery.

"We don't want to just be a Chapel Hill thing – we want to

be a state thing," he said. "We are much larger than just 'Go Heels.'"

In order to become North Carolina's distillery, Maitland has to go through the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC), since in North Carolina alcohol distribution is controlled by the state and liquor can only be sold through ABC stores, meaning Maitland has to transport his product to

the ABC warehouse in Raleigh, and from there it can be shipped to all 400 ABC stores in the state.

Maitland is confident in his product's success.

"We are not afraid of any other product on the market," Maitland said. "Ours is a product that can stand on its own two feet."

Briefs

Winmore Salon opens

This spring Winmore Salon became the first business to open in the Winmore Neighborhood in Carrboro.

The Winmore Salon is owned and operated by Angela Esperon, who has 27 years of salon experience. The salon is located at 230 E. Winmore Ave. in the green-built neighborhood's town center.

Southern Season tasting tours

A Southern Season has begun offering tasting tours on the second and fourth Fridays of every month.

Tour guides will give a brief introduction and history of the company and then take the tour group through the store's nine departments. In each of the departments a culinary expert will be on hand to tell the story of a product and then allow the group to taste it.

The tours are free and start at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., lasting approximately 45 minutes. To sign up, call (800) 253-3663.



Weinstein Friedlein hires new architect

Carrboro's Weinstein Friedlein Architects has hired Michael Cincala as a new intern architect.

Cincala is from Pittsburg and holds a master's degree in architecture from Virginia Tech. Weinstein Friedlein Architects specializes in architecture, planning, adaptive re-use and interiors.

Local swap exchange service

In order to help families save money, parents from Chapel Hill and Durham have started a local online swap service. The service is called Snazzy Swap, and it's a place where families can go online and exchange their children's clothes, DVDs, toys and books with items from other families.

At SnazzySwap.com, families can pick from a large variety of boxes filled with children's items, pay \$5 plus shipping and have the box sent to their address. Families can also post a box of their own filled with items their children might have outgrown.

Chamber partners with REALTORS

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce has formed a partnership with the Greater Chapel Hill Association of REALTORS (GCHAR).

In July, GCHAR will be moving its headquarters next to the chamber's office at 104 S. Estes Drive, and in January 2013 the chamber will enroll GCHAR members as REALTOR Chamber members, extending chamber benefits and services to them.

Until January 2013, GCHAR will continue to exist as an independent association serving its 500 members.

Chamber hosts state legislative briefing

On July 10 the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce will host its annual State Legislative Briefing.

State legislators will be on hand to speak with attendees about issues affecting their businesses. In addition, Mark Zimmerman will review legislative issues that are important to real estate and property owners.

The event will be held at Chapel Hill Country Club from 8 to 10 a.m. and is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members and includes a full breakfast. To register visit carolinachamber.org/events

Carolina Brewery gets new tanks

The Carolina Brewery will receive new fermentation and storage tanks today (Thursday), which will double its current brewing capacity. The new equipment will be housed at the brewery's Pittsboro location and will allow it to brew up to 10,000 barrels of beer per year.

Balanced Physical Therapy reopens as Proaxis

Last Friday, Proaxis Therapy, formerly known as Balanced Physical Therapy, held a grand-opening event to introduce its facilities and services to the Carrboro community.

Proaxis recently acquired Balanced Physical Therapy, which began operating under the Proaxis name on April 2. Balanced Physical Therapy owners Rob Schneider and Brian Beatty plan to remain with the organization.

Proaxis Therapy is an independently owned and operated physical therapy company with more than 30 clinics throughout North Carolina, South Carolina and Colorado. The Carrboro location is the company's fourth clinic in the state. For more information, visit proaxistherapync.com

Chapel Hill Tire hybrid certified

After more than a year of training and certification, Chapel Hill Tire Car Care Center has become the first certified ACDC Hybrid/EV repair shop in the Triangle. The certification process includes service and repair training for electric and hybrid vehicles.

The company has four locations in the Triangle and has been serving the area for 59 years. For more details about their advanced car care technology, visit chapelhilltire.com

Terra Nova goes green

Earlier this month, Terra Nova Global Properties received its Green Plus designation from the Institute for Sustainable Development/Green Plus.

Through the Green Plus program, the institute provides open-source sustainability expertise throughout the U.S. With two eco-brokers on staff, Terra Nova strives to spread green consciousness throughout the community. In addition, brokers assist in the development of infill properties like Twin Magnolias in downtown Carrboro.

For more information, visit gogreenplus.org

Carolina Brewery grows team

Carolina Brewery has announced the addition of two representatives to their sales team.

Rebecca Dew, a College of Charleston graduate, and Jennifer Francioni, a UNC-Greensboro graduate, will aid in the company's expansion across North Carolina and into South Carolina markets. Dew will cover the Charleston, Hilton Head and surrounding South Carolina communities, and Francioni will be responsible for western North Carolina and will oversee Carolina Brewery's expansion into Asheville.

Carol Woods honored

Last month, Carol Woods Retirement Community earned the So-



Jennifer Francioni



Rebecca Dew

CARRBORO 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION 2012

Town Hall Commons
Wednesday, July 4

starting at 9:30 am with
the People's Parade from
Weaver St. Market to Town
Hall

Live music, food, and fun
for all ages until 4pm

Look for more info in
the next issue of MILL
inside the June 28 Citizen

Photo by Alex McClung @Flickr

CALLING ALL CARRBORO BUSINESSES

The Town of Carrboro will publish the
**2012-2013 Community Resource
and Visitors Guide**

in **September 2012**. Businesses started since
August 2011 or not included in last year's listings
are invited to provide information. Home-based
businesses are encouraged to participate.

Please submit the following information:
industry/business type; business name; address;
phone number; web URL.

To view listings from last year's directory, visit
www.carrborocitizen.com/print/Guide2011.pdf.
Send all data to Robert Dickson at publisher@carrborocitizen.com
by July 19, 2012.

For information regarding advertising in the
Resource Guide, please contact Marty Cassady at
marty@carrborocitizen.com or 919-942-2100.

**NO CHANGE IN CURBSIDE
RECYCLING SCHEDULE
for July 4th holiday.**



**Have your bins out by 7AM on your
normally scheduled recycling day!**

**Orange County Solid Waste
Convenience Centers,
Solid Waste Administrative Office,
and the Orange County Landfill
will be CLOSED Wednesday July 4th.**

Landfill services such as mulch sales and the
hazardous waste collection will also be closed.

**Normal hours of operation
will resume Thursday, July 5.**

Orange County Solid Waste Management
(919) 968-2788
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THE CARRBORO
CITIZEN

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confirms the
GOP's radical
direction

CHRIS FITZSIMON

If you were looking for a clear signal that the Republicans now in control of the General Assembly remain steadfastly committed to their radical right-wing agenda, last week brought that confirmation.

It didn't come in the startling revelation on the House floor that Republican leaders were negotiating with the American Petroleum Institute about the industry actually paying for the people who would oversee their dangerous fracking operations.

It wasn't the decision by House leaders to add a private school-voucher scheme to its version of the education reform package of Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger.

And it wasn't even the decision by Senate leaders during the budget debate to block consideration of an amendment that would make sure only small businesses received a tax cut that was billed as a break only for them, not for the millionaire lawyers who are about to receive it.

That amendment would have used the money saved by giving the tax cut only to small businesses to avoid firing thousands of teachers and to provide long-overdue compensation for the victims of the state's horrific eugenics program. Senate leaders used a parliamentary procedure to avoid a vote on the amendment, and then called the proposal itself a political move.

As disturbing as those decisions were, last week's clue that legislative leaders remain unwavering in their loyalty to the radical right came in the appearance of a visitor to the Legislative Office Building, noted only by someone on Twitter until he was the subject of a friendly column in the *News & Observer* on Sunday.

The out-of-towner was Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform, the group that demands that lawmakers and candidates sign a pledge never to raise taxes, no matter the emergency, no matter the needs of the state. It's a pledge that virtually every Republican in the state signs, a promise to the far right and a vow not to think for themselves after they are elected.

Norquist, one of the most well-known national leaders of the hard-right Tea Party world, hates the public sector so much that he once famously said his goal was to shrink government down to the size "where we can drown it in the bathtub."

His appearance comes on the heels of reports that some well-known Republicans like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush are uncomfortable with Norquist's dogmatic tactics and his pledge that now holds that even closing a tax loophole is considered a tax increase and is grounds for charges of disloyalty.

That didn't make it into the column by Rob Christensen in the *News & Observer* over the weekend about Norquist's visit, and there was no news coverage of his appearance.

The column instead presented Norquist's agenda with little context, the agenda he apparently talked to Republican leaders about — from private-school vouchers to a flat tax to requiring voter approval for any tax increase. He mentioned the ridiculously named Taxpayer Protection Act, which like his pledge, puts arbitrary limits on state spending that would cripple vital institutions like public schools.

Norquist is a polarizing figure with radical views far outside the mainstream of most people in North Carolina.

The fact that he came to Raleigh to advise the folks currently in charge of the General Assembly is big news, whether it received the full coverage it deserved or not.

It's also a frightening commentary on the Republican leaders' plans for North Carolina if they remain in power.

Chris Fitzsimon is the executive director of N.C. Policy Watch.

CORRECTION

An article in last week's *Citizen* about the approval of the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service Community House Men's Shelter Good Neighbor Plan misquoted IFC executive director Chris Moran. Moran said that the shelter will have a no drop-in policy, and that if drop-ins show up they will receive information on shelter procedures for obtaining emergency or transitional housing services. *The Citizen* regrets the error.

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Not ready to cheer 2020

JOE BUONFIGLIO

Watch out, Carrboro; Chapel Hill's new comprehensive plan cannot help but have a major impact on your future too.

As the June 25 deadline for completion and possible adoption of Chapel Hill's new comprehensive plan draws near, kudos and congratulatory pats on the back abound. Unfortunately, I am not able to join in the current Chapel Hill 2020 lovefest. While there are many positive points that can be made, the final product is certainly not shaping up to be anything we should celebrate.

CH2020 co-chairs George Cianciolo and Rosemary Waldorf have touted this process of creating a new plan as "our people's vision" with "a wide-open opportunity to break with the old ways of doing business." Additionally, at the May 21 Chapel Hill Town Council meeting, there were but a few exceptions to the parade of valentines for the 2020 leadership and town staff.

There is no doubt that a great deal of time and effort on the part of a lot of people went into this thing. I certainly applaud the months of arduous work and self-sacrifice by all of those involved. However, let me suggest an alternative, far less rosy perspective of the 2020 process and its resulting document.

First of all, there is the lingering and consistently circumvented complaint that the process was unnecessarily rushed, and it shows. In textbook adherence to the old "haste makes waste" adage, the resulting 2020 document is painted with too broad a brush and backed by little proven, defensible, hard data. While home to lovely thoughts and wishes, mostly useless generalities reside within its pages. So while developers will be thrilled by this new vision and the abandonment of the "old ways of doing business," as the 2020 co-chairs happily announced, the fact is that a commitment to protecting the wants and needs of neighborhoods clearly stated in the soon-to-be retired comprehensive plan are blatantly lacking in the new one. If defending the character and concerns of neighborhoods is added to the final product, I'm quite confident it will be done so in a way that will water down a Chapel Hill neighborhood's ability to point to this document in any attempt at self-preservation.

Besides the unreasonably accelerated tempo of the process, I (and many others) had the distinct feeling that we were being herded to an almost predetermined outcome. We can talk of preserving Chapel Hill's small-town qualities — we can even put it down on paper — but make sure it is done in a way that won't have any real impact on our new savior, high-density mixed-use commercial development. The new mantra: Bigger is the new better.

A good example of this is the much-hyped "15-501 South Discussion Group" process that basically outlines the vision (read: fate) for the Obey Creek tract across from Southern Village in the town's southern area. This vicinity is currently zoned single-family-home residential and has long been considered an environmental offset to high-density Southern Village. However, to look at the new comprehensive plan after the "discussion group" was done with it, you'd assume "the people" wanted to change this and build the heck out of it.

This outcome, as with the rest of the whole 2020

process, is highly suspect at best.

In the May 21 meeting, Chapel Hill Town Council member Lee Storrow questioned assistant planning director Mary Jane Nirdlinger about the level of development contained within the map derived from the conclusions of the 15-501 South discussion group, stating, "because I know some folks had some concerns about making a jump from what had been really a longstanding policy discussion about what zoning was going to look like in the southern part of town — and I'm not saying this is bad; I'm not saying this is good — but I do think it looks really different than what that southern-area taskforce did, which was a really long community conversation to get to that point."

Nirdlinger responded, "The discussion group produced those recommendations. They had a couple of collaborative evenings where folks who attended the meetings, but weren't with the discussion group, worked with the discussion-group members. There was information the first night about vision. The second night, more specifically about the areas on the plan. And then consensus from the discussion group is what you see in the document today."

I wish Mr. Storrow had pursued his astute concerns further, because Nirdlinger's answer is misleading. It gives the impression that the many citizens in attendance — mostly from the neighborhoods actually surrounding the controversial Obey Creek property that is currently being targeted for a massive retail-and-residential complex — came to "consensus" with the "discussion group" committee to jointly make the pro-development recommendation now embraced by the new comprehensive plan. As a citizen-stakeholder who attended those meetings, I can tell you that this is a load of garbage bordering on outright propaganda.

The significant number of neighborhood residents working in several different, autonomous groups each independently reported wanting a much lower-density, substantially less-commercial-to-no-commercial development vision for the Obey Creek tract.

It was the handpicked, not-nominated-by-the-people "discussion-group" committee — including not just a developer, but the Obey Creek developer — who came to "consensus" for the amplified level of development.

I feel this is indicative of the Chapel Hill 2020 process overall. Let the people have a voice; but if that voice in any way works against the pro-development agenda, find a way to tweak it to a more developer-friendly outcome.

This is hardly "the people's vision." It is a weak document by design, so as not to impede on the desires of those who want to build our way to prosperity at the expense of neighborhoods. It has no concrete guidelines; this translates to no governor on development. When it comes to protecting our neighborhoods from unreasonable or unwanted development projects, the bottom line is that the current comprehensive plan is far superior to this meaningless mess coming down the pike courtesy of the CH2020 process.

As Chapel Hill Planning Board member Amy Ryan said to the town council at its May 21 meeting, "The result is the document you have before you: a general, placeless, often contradictory wish-list that could be cherry-picked to justify plans that have little to do with what the citizens want for our town."

Joe Buonfiglio is a resident of Chapel Hill.

LETTERS

A physician's perspective on gun violence

June 21 is National ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day. This annual campaign, sponsored by The Center to Prevent Youth Violence, educates us about the importance of asking if there are guns in the homes where our children play.

We ask many questions to protect our children when they play in other people's homes, but half of U.S. adults state they never thought to ask about guns.

ASK urges us to:

- Ask if there are guns in the homes where our children play.
- Store guns unloaded and locked up separately from the ammunition.
- Treat pellet and BB guns with the same caution as other guns.
- Teach our children to alert an adult immediately if they see a gun, even if it might be a toy or video game accessory. They should never touch or pick it up.

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002, found that gun violence tragically claims the lives of eight U.S. children each day. And more than 82,000 children in N.C. live in homes where guns are unlocked and loaded, placing them at significant risk for accidental injury or death. Join in sharing ASK's lifesaving message. Visit AskingSavesKids.org to learn more.

KRISTEN ROGERS, MD
UNC pediatric resident

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and emailed letters are preferred.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Box 248 Carrboro, NC 27510
susan@carrborocitizen.com

It's time to
rethink our
'shoot-first'
gun laws

GAIL NEELY

A buyer's remorse is spreading among lawmakers in many states that joined the rush in recent years to remove reasonable limits on the purchase and use of handguns.

In Florida, where the tragic death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin has focused the nation's attention on that state's "stand-your-ground" law, a senator from Miami says she will file a repeal or revision of the seven-year-old legislation. Similarly in Texas, Wisconsin, Georgia and South Carolina, legislators have announced plans to overturn variations of shoot-first statutes.

North Carolina's "Castle Doctrine" was enacted last year by the General Assembly and is just a short step from the stand-your-ground law in Florida. Rep. Rodney Moore of Mecklenburg County says he wants to revisit this new law, which removes accountability from anyone who kills a person in his home, car or office if the shooter feels threatened.

For any of these moves to succeed would be an upset to the gun lobby, which in a decade has systematically swept out limits on gun use that have been in place for generations. These stirrings are, however, the opening for a long-needed public conversation about guns in our society.

Shoot-first laws can't help but fuel a more aggressive approach to our daily interactions with each other, making every verbal confrontation at a bar, restaurant or traffic stop a potential gun battle. The problem with shoot-first laws is that it can come down to the shooter's word against the victim's, and unfortunately the victim is dead.

Last year, our General Assembly passed legislation to allow people to carry concealed weapons in parks and playgrounds. Separate legislation to force restaurants and bars to welcome gun-toting patrons is now on the verge of passing the Senate after having been approved in the House. But there is increasing evidence that weak or nonexistent gun rules are strongly unpopular outside the well-funded gun lobby.

North Carolina cities and counties are moving quickly to take advantage of an opt-out provision in the new state law permitting guns on playgrounds. And recent polling results show that 72 percent of voters in the state oppose guns in bars and restaurants. A year ago, pollsters found 81 percent of gun owners in the state favor stronger gun laws.

In short, the public isn't buying the gun lobby's continually perpetuated myth that when everyone is armed in a community it is a safer community, and for good reason: A recent study from Harvard University's Injury Control Research Center found that states with higher gun ownership rates and weak gun laws have the highest rates of overall gun death.

Support for eliminating even the most reasonable limits on handguns also requires a belief that our neighborhoods, ball fields and offices are increasingly dangerous places populated by gun-toting threats. But most people don't recognize that myth in the real world, and statistics bear them out: Violent crime has been falling, and was down 10.2 percent statewide in 2010, according to the State Bureau of Investigation.

For advocates of sensible gun restrictions, the trend to make guns easier to buy, carry and use not only doesn't make us safer, it invites gun accidents and needless tragedies.

In Florida, justifiable homicides have tripled in the five years since its law went into effect. Even gang shootings have gone unprosecuted, leading the bill's sponsor to say he regrets his role in its passage.

Thirty-thousand people are killed by guns every year in this country. That is 30,000 families devastated. Guns are going to be a part of our lives, but we have a duty to find ways to limit their needless destruction, whether it is making sure sheriffs have the appropriate authority to regulate concealed carry permits, requiring safety locks in homes with children or re-examining the self-defense expansions in the shoot-first laws.

Can we talk?

Gail Neely is the executive director of North Carolinians Against Gun Violence.

Less of a person in the eyes of North Carolina

BY JEFFERY BEAM

The morning of May 9, 2012, I woke up less of a person in the eyes of my home state. A person who was already less so by the rule of some pre-existing laws, but now constitutionally less — by an amendment that contradicts the greatest precepts of our venerable national document, the separation of church and state, the individual's inalienable rights and protection from tyranny. Now I am a subject to what essentially is a "Christian" Sharia-like law — the very kind of law that the people who created and voted for it would rebel against, if they were subject to something like it.

My husband and I — we've both just recently turned 59 — were born and grew up in North Carolina. We have never asked a church or formalized religion to marry us, nor have we asked civil authorities to do so. Truthfully, it once meant nothing to us, because we recognized that 32 years ago a higher power united us with its blessing. Every five years we have gathered friends, family and colleagues to thank them for their support, love, trust and companionship. Here's a true parable: After we had been together for just a few years, my paternal grandmother who had worked from the age of 13 until

the age of 63 in a textile mill, and who died at the age of 93 having been born in 1903, told one of my cousins, "You know they're married, don't you?" What a wise, welcoming and generous woman she was. We did always hope, that someday, in our lifetimes, in our native state, our native country, our homeland, that our government, separate from any religious domination, would grant us the equal rights that already belonged to us. My grandmother foresaw it even then.

We feel — no, we know — we have contributed significantly to the quality of life in North Carolina. I know that my work as a poet has contributed to the culture of our state. We will end our days here. We were both born Christian. My husband is now an Episcopalian, the denomination he settled on after being Presbyterian and Baptist (denominations we still love and respect — as I do the Methodist fold I left). I abandoned institutionalized Christianity during the civil rights movement as a very young man, almost still a child really, when I saw and heard the hypocrisy that could sometimes reside therein. However, I did not forsake Christ, or he I, but I did find over the years the joy of ecumenical embrace, and gained from many traditions and cultures. I suppose

I should call myself a pan-religionist, although I imagine that makes me suspect in itself.

Once it didn't matter whether society condoned our sacred union or not, but now it does. Not so much even for us, but for all those like us, including our older mentors now dead and gone, some of whom lived in semi-hiding for more than 50 years as "married" couples — longer than many, if not most, straight marriages last these days. And for those young people after us who are now going even beyond us in the ways they define themselves.

Such an amendment is a lot closer to pogroms, slavery, imprisonments, tortures and genocides than any of us might wish to ponder. History shows how quickly a seemingly "small" wrong like this constitutional amendment can turn into something more evil, more destructive. Hitler, Pol Pot and the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina only happened yesterday in history's long corridor. Amendment One insults Christ, insults loving Christians, insults loving believers anywhere and insults the divine energy from which we imagine we have individually sprung — but in which we all, rather, harmoniously reside and express as one. As a matter of fact, it insults those who

conceived and approved it.

As I remember my classes in high school, I recall the last one taught — Civics. There, and in United States history and North Carolina history classes before and after, I learned of the oppression that those who came to America, in the beginning, and later on, sought to escape. And of the promise of freedom to be denied to no American. Woe, unto those lost days when such ideas were taught with a sense of openness, love and compassion urging welcome to the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Where have they gone? If only the Sermon on the Mount and The Golden Rule were constitutionally recognized, but then what gain would those responding through fear obtain? Those are the two constitutions I decided to live by as a young man. My internal law is one of empathy and compassion. Thus I turn my other cheek to you — those who threaten my soul, and perhaps someday my life. Luckily, it appears the younger generation will not allow this discrimination to stand forever, and perhaps before my husband and I are gone we'll no longer be second-class, or even third-class, citizens.

For now I will remain a subject to a constitution that has been stolen from me — a pariah

to prejudiced fanatics and a citizenry that has been hoodwinked by four or more decades of subtle and effective propaganda into believing whatever is different from them harms them while the propagandists themselves have strengthened their hold on the masses, on me — and continues to fill its pockets while slowly eating away at the rights our founders envisioned. A sorry citizenry, indeed, turned into sheep easily convinced by lies, by the abusive use of the media, and by sports and entertainment that oftentimes feed baser instincts while providing blissful distraction. Ah, sounds familiar: 1984, Brave New World, Fahrenheit 451 and The Hunger Games.

I think on our ancestors, my ancestors, many who came here seeking liberty, escaping both religious and governmental injustice and oppression, and those brought here under the yoke of an oppression out of which we had prayed we had grown beyond. I think back on how often religions have been used to whitewash the greed of the powerful, and those governments that turned against their own better interests for momentary gain — only to be led eventually to conflict and bloodshed. I wish for no pure religion, no honest political party, no collective of people a diminution

of their rights to believe and live freely. I ask for nothing less. But I pity those who have become the enemy their ancestors sought to escape.

Why do I bother to send this missive to media outlets that reach primarily those who will agree with me? What good will it do? I am by no means a perfect human being, but every day I try to live by The Golden Rule, the Sermon on the Mount. All I know is such injustice that has been wrought yesterday should not be codified in golden documents, documents that instead should guide us in being openhearted to each other and the world. And thus I speak to the wind, and hope my words are not lost in it, but gain from its strength.

For today, and for an indeterminate future, I remain less a person, in the eyes of some, and in the letter of the law. But I am not less a human being, nor less a soul or spirit. For my being, and my human love for another human being, my husband, is embraced by a divinity that oppressors have no knowledge of. Because of that, I love them, even in their hate. May their God awaken them.

Jeffery Beam is a poet who lives in Hillsborough.

Neighborly suggestions

Nice to see the Inter-Faith Council's Good Neighbor plan clear the council. Took a while and we learned a lot.

And although it failed, 5-2, the move to put a date certain on the IFC's exit from the old municipal building was instructive.

It reminds us that there are two really large steps ahead for our community.

The first is making sure there is an emergency shelter or a rotating network of shelters, similar perhaps to the network that existed before the establishment of the Rosemary Street facility. The new Community House on Homestead Road was designed to transition its residence out of homelessness, while an emergency shelter treats its symptoms. They are vastly different endeavors. Certainly, there will be times when Community House will be pressed into service as an emergency shelter, but that should only occur under extraordinary circumstances.

One of the problems with the Rosemary Street site was that too many services and the mix of people they served were packed under one roof. To do what it's supposed to do, the new Community House needs that distinction between a transitional shelter and an emergency shelter not to blur.

The community also deserves action on the assurance that a solution to the emergency-shelter question is on the way.

To that end, let me suggest

that the town, IFC and other interested entities in Orange County expedite the conversation on an emergency shelter or shelter network.

You're welcome. I look forward to reading about it.

The other item still unresolved in the transition of our community's response to homelessness and poverty is what happens to the other big part of the Rosemary Street location — the community kitchen.

It's no secret that the IFC plans to consolidate all of its food operations into a brand-new building that will be located roughly on the site now occupied by the IFC offices and food pantry on Main Street in Carrboro. For just as long as this idea has been around, there's been strong opposition to it from a variety of merchants, along with apprehension about the forthcoming application from a variety of members of town government.

But just like the emergency-shelter issues, we should look at how long it took to conduct a full, community-wide review of the Community House and try to imagine doing something on that order for a project in downtown Carrboro.

The focus of the new facility will be food — not just feeding people through a community kitchen but increasing food security throughout our area through the IFC's food bank.

This focus on food in a single location allows for better coordination in addressing hunger and nutrition needs, and Carrboro, which prides itself on its food culture, should welcome it with open arms.

The design for the new building has been in the works for years. It promises to be as green a building as Carrboro demands and a modern, much more functional space to replace the one currently on the lot. The upgrade to the site on such a key stretch of Main Street should have a positive impact on downtown's traffic flow, considering the tie-ups caused by getting in and out of the current lot.

There's no doubt that as much as it makes sense, when the request to build the new building comes in to the town there will be a huge ruckus raised by opponents. There'll be valid and informative points raised; but as we saw in the shelter discussion, we'll likely hear the same kind of stereotypes used in the fight against the shelter applied to the folks coming downtown for a meal or those dropping in to get a bag of groceries.

That's why we need to get this discussion rolling and not wait until, say, after the next municipal election cycle. So let me suggest to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the IFC that the conversation about this new consolidated kitchen and pantry, the need for it and the impact on Carrboro's downtown get started out in the open, and soon.

You're welcome. I look forward to reading about it.

CHARTERWOOD

FROM PAGE 1

in our town and put something on it," she said. "I understand the need for a tax base, I understand the need to be respectful of those who choose to purchase development property, but ... we have so many condos and townhouses, office buildings and apartments that are open, vacant, advertising for buyers, in receivership. Why do we need another?"

Aaron Nelson, president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, said the community needs development to grow the tax base and create jobs, and that in order for the growing community not to sprawl, multi-story development must be placed within existing infrastructure.

"Currently, we drive outside of our market to buy our goods," he said. "We're a basketball town

"We're a basketball town where you can't buy a basketball."

—Aaron Nelson

where you can't buy a basketball." "We think this is the right project in the right location at the right time," he added.

Council members asked for more information on the legal points raised by Currin.

"I think this is a mess," council member Laurin Easthom said. "We need a lot of clarification."

Easthom, who previously voted against the development alongside council members Lee Storror and Ed Harrison, said she also had concerns regarding

the project's stormwater mitigation.

"What we surely don't want to do is take, I think, much risk at all, if any, in setting a precedent and have then some lawyer stand up before us at the next [development proposal] and say, 'Well, you clearly have set this precedent,' and find ourselves having to defend that," council member Matt Czajkowski said.

The council will revisit the proposal next week.

COUNTY BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

as Commissioner Barry Jacobs pointed out, avoiding a property-tax increase for the fourth year in a row.

The county was able to find an additional \$65-per-pupil allotment for both the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and the Orange County Schools, which added a total increase of \$1,280,500 to the schools budget.

The remaining \$219,500 of the \$1.5 million that was added to the budget was split between initiatives the commissioners petitioned to fund.

The Dispute Settlement Center received \$51,000 to help keep the program from closing after

the legislature eliminated funding for all mediation centers across North Carolina. The commissioners also allocated \$51,460 to the Central Library in Hillsborough to increase hours of operation by four per week, \$1,000 to the Freedom House, \$10,716 for a Fire Marshal position, \$10,000 to a scholarship fund through the Department of Social Services and \$120,000 to be set aside for the Rogers Road Community Center.

"We were able to maintain funding for outside agencies and give a pay increase to our staff for the first time in four years," Jacobs said. "I want to thank the staff for all the good work they did."

In finding extra money to allocate, the commissioners were

still able to maintain the high level of their fund balance, which according to the commissioners is high due to extremely careful spending.

"Obviously, Clarence has done a good job with the county budget," County Manager Frank Clifton said, referring to the county's financial-services director, Clarence Grier, as the board thanked both Grier and his staff for their hard work on the budget.

The commissioners also unanimously passed a resolution approving a plan to implement voluntary roadside-management practices for ensuring the conservation of wildflowers along Orange County roadways.

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Carrboro High graduates march into the Dean Dome on June 9 for the school's 2012 graduation ceremonies.

PHOTO BY ALICIA STEMPER

CARRBORO HIGH SCHOOL 2012 GRADUATES

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Mulberry cultivar "Silk Hope" produces for more than six weeks.

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

next to impossible, though if one can get close to a true species of red or white mulberry, it is doable. He made me comfortable in distinguishing between the two, but I'm not counting on finding a non-hybrid in the wild.

The confusion began way back in the early 1600s, when King James I sent silkworm eggs and white mulberries over to the colonies to compete with France and Italy in silk production. Silk became an on-again, off-again American industry, beginning in the South but proving more

prosperous in New England and Pennsylvania.

Once Asiatic *Morus alba* hit our native turf, it and our truly native red mulberry, *Morus rubra*, got along so well that natural hybrids turned up everywhere.

A real highlight of our walk-around with A.J. was standing beneath and sampling the tasty fruits of a hybrid selection, "Silk Hope," brought to his attention in the 1980s by Chatham County heritage apple man Lee Calhoun. Lee showed him that tree at Silk Hope, and soon afterward A.J. introduced "Silk Hope" into the nursery trade. "Silk Hope" has been

producing delicious fruit since mid-April, and there are more coming on.

With appreciation to A.J. Bullard, I'm going to seek out a "Silk Hope" to plant this winter and not fret anymore about all those wild hybrids in the local woods.

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at [The Annotated Flora \(carrborocitizen.com/flora\)](http://TheAnnotatedFlora.com).



A.J. Bullard and Liam Shannon reaching for tasty ripe berries on "Silk Hope" mulberry PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



Construction buds

Perhaps you are familiar with the pop-culture shorthand "peeps" for people. I'm referencing that because this week's photo-haiku is not about the frighteningly outsized buildings sprouting all over town – it's about peeps. As you drive by the construction site at I40 W. Franklin St., your eye is naturally drawn upward at the sheer enormity of the structure. But I find myself drawn to the construction workers clambering all over their Gulliver. Earlier this semester, undergraduate photojournalism student Ryan Cocca must have been seeing the same thing too when he photographed this pair. Posing for their environmental portrait, Dusty Blankenship (left) and Deek "Rodbuster" Simmons describe themselves as buds, a fact you can clearly see for yourself by their body language – almost like choreography. So don't ever forget, whatever we may build, ultimately it's all about peeps.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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

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Cookout with 'Joyful Cook' Jim Johnson grilling beef brisket, pork shoulder & Italian sausages, all from our Market vendors. He'll also prepare a Cackalacky™ dip accompanied by fresh Market veggies. Summer produce is starting to come in, with the first of the tomatoes, corn and melons. FREE EVENT
svfarmersmarket.com

FRI June 22
6-8 pm
Music Maker 'Roots and Leaves' Music Series Before the Movies, every Friday in June presenting "Sisters of the South" with Pat "Mother Blues" Cohen and Essie Mae Brooks. The Carolina Brewery Brew Van will be selling cold beverages at this event. FREE EVENT, Pay \$4 only if staying for "The Avengers"
www.musicmaker.org

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SUN June 24
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