

FRIDAY
10% Chance of Precip
90/67

SATURDAY
10% Chance of Precip
95/72

SUNDAY
10% Chance of Precip
97/72

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



A green planthopper investigates a plantain flower spike. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Plantains have it all!

After recently seeing some handsome specimens of common plantain, *Plantago major*, up in the Carolina mountains, I was happy to arrive home to find my own wild population showing off impressively in spite of the harsh hot and dry conditions.

I usually review what others have had to say about my "plant of the week" before I add my observations. I'm happy that this week's plant is included in my favorite reference, Tom Brown's Guide to Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants by well-known wilderness survival teacher Tom Brown Jr.

In Tom's words: "Plantain is a lover of lawns, gardens, roadsides and fields. Leaves of the common plantain are in basal rosettes, found low to the ground. The leaves are roundish, heavily ribbed and very broad with flattened stems. It flowers from summer to mid-fall. The greenish-white tiny flowers are found along leafless stems. One or more species of plantain is found throughout the United States."

Indeed, those flowers are tiny. Even with your trusty hand lens, a closer look will barely let you discern those minuscule tubular flowers from which extend the more visible white anthers.

While taking my closer look, I was joined by a beautiful green planthopper that also seemed to be having a closer look at the green flower spike. So often, visiting pollinators, or just curious insect visitors, are every bit as engaging to the observer as the plant or flower. The cool green beauty and casual attitude of the planthopper was a pleasant surprise.

SEE FLORA PAGE 8

Carrboro to revisit anti-lingering

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CARRBORO – Following claims that the town's anti-lingering ordinance is unconstitutional, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen voted unanimously on Tuesday to take another look at it.

The board approved an anti-lingering ordinance for the intersection of Davie and Jones Ferry roads in November 2007 after residents of the surrounding neighborhood complained of public consumption, public urina-

tion and garbage in the areas around the intersection. Day laborers, many of them Latino, often gather at the intersection in hopes that contractors will come by and offer them work. The ordinance prohibits waiting at the intersection from 11 a.m. until 5 a.m.

On June 16, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice sent a letter to Carrboro Town Attorney Michael Brough and the board alleging the ordinance's unconstitutionality. The letter was also signed by lawyers from the N.C. NAACP, the ACLU of North

Carolina, the N.C. Justice Center, the N.C. Immigrant Rights Project, the UNC Center for Civil Rights and the UNC School of Law Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity, as well as professors in the UNC Immigration/Human Rights Policy Clinic and UNC Civil Legal Assistance Clinic.

"While Carrboro day laborers often receive day-long employment between 5 a.m. and 11 a.m., many

SEE ALDERMEN PAGE 3

DHHS overhaul to hit home



Michael and Toni Wilson in front of their Chapel Hill home

PHOTO BY AVA BARLOW

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

Jim Wells is back in private practice now in Chapel Hill, but until just recently he served as attending psychiatrist for Female Continuing Care at Dorothea Dix Hospital.

In the couple of years he was there, he became familiar with the culture of the state's behavioral health care system, and he has it on good authority that a popular handbook called *High-Velocity Culture Change* has made an impression on some of the individuals driving the latest overhaul of that system.

"I know some of them have been influenced by this book," Wells says.

Among the book's aphorisms are, "Analyzing your present culture is like going to history class, when you could learn more valuable stuff from studying the future." And: "Start out fast and keep trying to pick up speed. Leave skid marks."

Wells certainly isn't opposed to the principles behind the overhaul – to serve more people living with mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse issues and to more efficiently and cost-effectively manage services. He hopes though that something has been learned from a history of rushing to the next solution without doing due diligence.

Meanwhile, another Chapel Hill

resident, Toni Wilson, is praying that her developmentally disabled son, Michael, who's in his 30s, and also suffers from lifelong mental health issues, won't be a skid mark on the road to further ill-fated reform.

Uncertain days

Toni Wilson has witnessed the state's mental health care reform peregrinations and seen her son's services curtailed.

Thava Mahadevan, executive director of XDS Inc., a Pittsboro-based agency that's worked with Michael in recent years, understands his mother's concerns: "Mom's terrified about what's going to happen to Michael."

Uncertainty isn't good for Michael Wilson. His father was murdered when he was 2. XDS has provided him with a number of support services – sometimes, simply, much-needed companionship – but those services have been incrementally defunded by Medicaid.

"If they take the services away," his mother says, "he's got to go to the doctor much more than he did; he's got to take much more medication than he did. That's going to cost the state."

Zolofit has been good for her son, Wilson says.

"But it's not enough. We need the people. Everybody needs somebody to talk to and somebody to help them

out through life.

"We all sometimes get upset or depressed. But when people like Michael, who have severe problems, get upset, they don't know how to deal with it; they don't know what to do. The only thing they know – I mean, his body will get to jumping and going every which way – is to act out. ... That's the only way he knows to let it out."

"When you take him out, you've got to watch him," his mother says. "Some women think that he's mean and that he's going to hurt them and they're a little afraid of him. But he's not really going to hurt them."

But she worries that a situation could get out of control. Michael struggles with boundaries, and sometimes crosses them. He once tried to pull a pizza delivery driver into the house.

Mahadevan worries about what would happen if Michael were to cross too far beyond those boundaries.

"I'm afraid his mother would have a huge breakdown if he were to be sent to prison," he says. "It would be devastating. And he wouldn't survive."

Consolidation

The proposed new system is designed, proponents say, to better

SEE MEDICAID PAGE 4

Miller named ArtsCenter director

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

CARRBORO – In a double shot of adrenaline for The ArtsCenter, Jay Miller has been named interim director, and on Tuesday Miller announced that the center has received verbal confirmation of a \$100,000 grant from the Nicholson Foundation. The grant will be used to assist The ArtsCenter with past-due accounts.

"I've been involved with The ArtsCenter since 1982, as a musician and then as a vendor, and now most recently as a financial supporter and advisor," Miller said on Tuesday. "I've always been impressed with the wealth of creativity and culture that this institution brings to our community and am happy to assist them as interim director during this transition period."

Miller will be working under a service grant from Shared Visions Foun-

ation. He is the president and executive director of Shared Visions, which helps build the organizational capacity of nonprofit agencies in Durham and Orange counties, and former owner of the Music Loft instrument store chain.

He assumed the role of interim director the first week of June and plans to stay on for six months or so.

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Airport authority legislation repealed

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Get cash, support your market

BY BROOKE PARKER
Staff Writer

Running out of cash at the Carrboro Farmers' Market? No problem. The market, in full summer swing on Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons, now has an ATM located inside the information booth for market shoppers' convenience.

The ATM won't just provide a source of cash for market-goers, though – the \$2.25 charge to use the machine will

go directly back to the market, instead of to a bank or credit card company.

Market manager Sarah Blacklin anticipates that the fees will help finance special events and the market's outreach program, but will mainly provide the market with more general funding.

"We have been looking up successful markets who have benefited from having an ATM," said Blacklin.

After much research, the market decided to invest in the new machine, and now the main goal is to make

sure users know the service fee is going right back to the farmers' market.

The ATM opened two weeks ago and has been successful thus far, Blacklin said.

"It will take a little bit of time before we see some major income," she added. "We're still getting it up and running."

Since the market invested in an ATM, the Common Currency Program provided at the market, known as "truck bucks" will no longer offer debit and credit services, but will

Chapel Hill won't charge library fees, for now

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL – Accepting a last-minute offer from Orange County officials, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted 7-2 on Monday not to charge non-Chapel Hill residents of Orange County to use the Chapel Hill Public Library.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners voted earlier this month to increase its annual allocation to the library from \$250,000 to about \$343,000. The council had asked the board to increase its allocation to the library budget as operating expenses increase with an impending expansion, then recently approved the town's fiscal year 2011-12 operating budget and with it a fee schedule that specified a \$60-per-household annual fee for those who live outside Chapel Hill to use the town's library.

The move followed the county's previous refusal to increase its contribution, which had remained static for 10 years.

"We've had issues with the county. This year has been a challenging one on our relationship," Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt said. "I thought it was a pretty big deal that they went forward and proposed a budget item [increasing library funding]."

If the council had chosen to implement library usage fees for non-Chapel Hill residents of Orange County, the county would have rescinded its annual contribution to the library's operating budget. According to town staff estimates, a fee-based library card system for non-Chapel Hill county residents could have generated up to \$100,000. To offset any shortfall in library revenue during 2011-12, the Chapel Hill Public Library Foundation committed as much as \$200,000 from the Cornelia Spencer Love Trust.

As part of the increased allocation, commissioners have said they would like to develop an interoperability agreement that would create ease of use between the Chapel Hill Public Library and the Orange County Public Library systems, and set a target date of November 2012 for such an agreement to be in place. In a suggested agreement, the commissioners proposed that the county increase its contribution to the library each fiscal year through June 2015 until the county's contribution represents 30 percent of what it spends on annual operation costs for the county library system. The county's funding of the Chapel Hill Public Library this year represented about 18 percent of what it spent on its own library system.

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 3

still offer services to EBT cardholders for the purchase of truck buck tokens to use at the market.

The ATM was purchased from Carolina ATM located in Raleigh.

"I am not entirely sure if the farmers have used it, but I know they love it," Blacklin said. The vendors typically only take cash, and the ATM is not only making it more convenient for market-goers but also for the farmers to "continue to grow," she said.

Briefs

Community Center changes

The Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department has announced operational changes for the Community Center (120 S. Estes Drive). Effective Friday, the Community Center will be closed on all town holidays. Effective Aug. 15, the pool at the Community Center will open at 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 968-2784.

Low-income weatherization

The Joint Orange-Chatham Community Action Agency seeks eligible households for a Weatherization Assistance Program that provides an energy audit and diagnostic testing to determine air infiltration, heat loss and levels of carbon monoxide, and identifies recommended energy conservation, safety and health measures. Local agency staff and private contractors will then complete the work for qualified projects.

The program's focus is on the elderly, the disabled, families with children, high energy users and the energy burdened. Weatherization assistance is available for single-family homes, apartments, condominiums and mobile homes. Applicants do not have to own their own homes, but renters must have written permission from their landlord.

For more information, call 542-4781.

Parking permit registration

Residential parking-permit renewals are being offered to residents of Chapel Hill's special parking zones. The new permit year begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2012.

For new parking-permit applications, complete a residential-permit application and provide a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of residency, and pay a sticker fee of \$25.

Residents who already have a permit must submit a renewal form. For more information, call 968-2758.

4th of July Celebration

The 2011 Carrboro July 4th Celebration will be held at the Carrboro Town Hall on

Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Red Clay Ramblers, The Village Band and Arch Bishop's of Blount Street will perform and booth designing and decorating will begin at 9:30 a.m. All events are free.

See the special 4th of July section in MILL for more details.

Provide cycling input

The Carrboro Bicycle Coalition (CBC) is surveying Carrboro and Chapel Hill residents to learn their views on cycling in the area, types of cycling events and projects that residents support and where and how cycling conditions could be improved.

The CBC is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the ReCYCLEry. It helped sponsor the Silver Level Bicycle Friendly City award ceremony, a Bike Safety Rodeo held at Carrboro Elementary School and the Carrboro Bike Breakfast held in May. Your valuable input will help it conduct future events and advocate for needed changes in our community.

To take the survey, visit bikecarrboro.com/survey

Family Fun Day July 9

Stop by the Orange County Public Library, located at 137 W. Margaret Lane, to pick up your passport to historic Hillsborough for a family fun day on July 9.

Events will include a guided walking tour from the Alexander Dickson House at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., scavenger hunts from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Orange County Historical Museum, blacksmithing at the Shops at Daniel Boone from noon to 5 p.m., the Eno River Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon and a tour of the Burwell School Historic Site

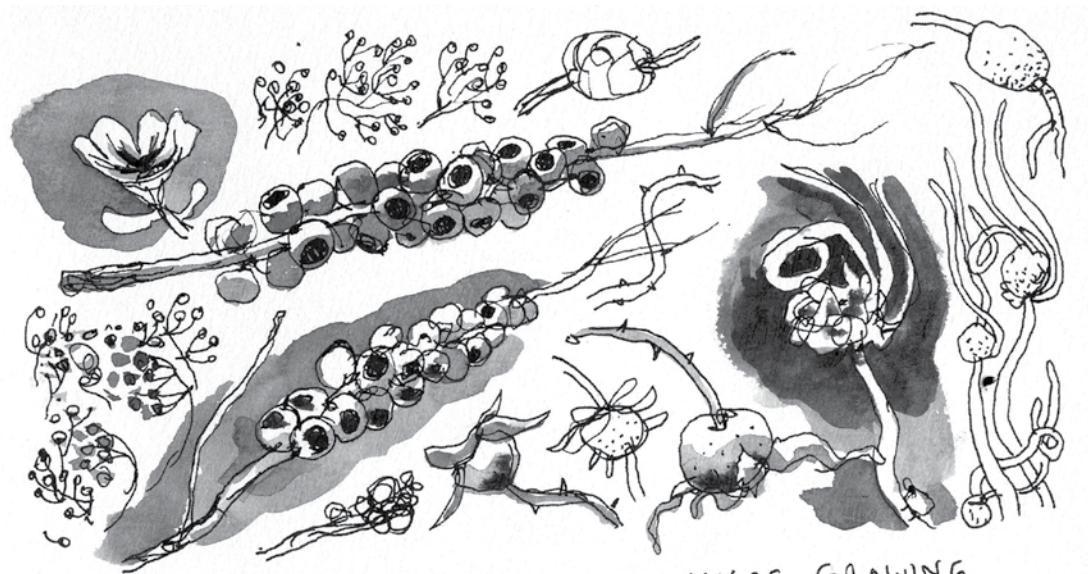
For more information, visit historichillsborough.org

Voter-Owned Election info session

The Town of Chapel Hill's Voter-Owned Election Program will be discussed at a public information session at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at Chapel Hill Town Hall.

The program for the public funding of local municipal election campaigns is voluntary and is for candidates choosing to run for Town elective office. Prospective candidates who choose to participate in the program must demonstrate a level of public support and comply with spending restrictions and reporting requirements as established by the town in order to receive public funding.

For more information, visit townofchapelhill.org/voe



WALK IN THE WOODS: ODD THINGS GROWING WITHOUT MY PERMISSION

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

HOUSE Calls

Practicing family physicians from the UNC Department of Family Medicine have teamed up with *The Carrboro Citizen* to bring you a weekly feature responding to your questions about health and medicine. Send your questions or comments to yourhealth@unc.edu



Dear HOUSE Calls, In controlling my type II diabetes by diet, my diet is a little higher in protein and fat than it had been. I am worried that this might increase my risk of heart disease. Do you have any advice?

That is a great question and the answer is not easy. We are so glad that you are controlling your diabetes with diet. Diabetes, at least before it starts to damage organs, is one of the most controllable-by-lifestyle medical disorders. We assume from your question that you are trying to cut back on simple carbohydrates like sugar, processed grains and potatoes. This is very important, but does seem to contradict the low-fat messages from the 1990s with regard to heart disease. We know now more than ever that the most important thing is the bottom line, or should we say, the waist line. Losing weight will do more for your diabetes (and

cholesterol, heart disease risk, blood pressure risk, etc.) than any single diet. So we would prefer your low-carbohydrate approach, if it works for you to lose weight. For others, a low-fat approach might be easier and more successful. Things are a little different with type I diabetes. Also, there are some particular kinds of fats (saturated fats and hydrogenated fats) that increase the risk of heart disease even if you lose weight and control your diabetes. We recommend you consider working with a nutritionist to navigate these complexities and to develop a diet that works with your preferences, lifestyle and family. Good luck.

Dear HOUSE Calls, My grandmother recently learned that she has atrial fibrillation. What does that mean?

Good question. Palpitations or abnormal beats (heavy beats, skipped beats or extra beats) can be a symptom of

atrial fibrillation or other abnormal heart rhythms. Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal heart rhythm usually generated by a stretched atrium (this is like the waiting room to the heart). The beats are generated three or four times faster than a normal beat, causing the atrium or "waiting room" to quiver in a not very productive way. The speed of the heart rate (passed from the atrium to the ventricle) determines the patient's symptoms such as light-headedness, passing out, chest pain and shortness of breath. So the two most important things are to control the heart rate and to minimize the risk of stroke (either with blood thinners or by trying to keep the heart in a regular rhythm). Good luck to your grandmother.

HOUSE Calls is a weekly column by Dr. Adam Goldstein, Dr. Cristy Page and Dr. Adam Zolotor on behalf of Your Health and the UNC Department of Family Medicine.

OBITUARIES

Paul Morris Plummer Sr.

Paul Morris Plummer Sr. peacefully left this life on Friday, June 24, surrounded by family. Born Dec. 14, 1927 in Guilford County, N.C., to Mr. and Mrs. Stacy Frank Plummer, he moved to the White Cross community in 1939 with his parents and six brothers and sisters. Mr. Plummer attended Chapel Hill High School and served in the U.S. Army in World War II.

On Dec. 24, 1948, he married the love of his life, Miss Dixie Mae Brockwell, and together they had four sons and four daughters. Surviving are his wife, Dixie; son Stacy Plummer and wife, Ann; daughter Carol and husband, David Gottlieb; daughter Miriam and husband, David Apple; son Paul Morris Plummer Jr. and wife, Phyllis; daughter Betsi Harris and husband, Geoff; son Larry David Plummer; son Michael Plummer and girlfriend, Tracy; daughter Jakki Plummer; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He

was predeceased by his brothers, Billy and Frank; sisters, Ella Mae, Yvonne, Dillya, Jewel and Octavia; and grandchildren Bryan and Adam.

Mr. Plummer was a wonderful father and husband and was loved by all who knew him. He worked almost his entire life as a master carpenter to raise his eight children, who will miss him dearly. His passion for life and integrity above all else served as a guiding light for his family and will continue to in the years ahead.

Funeral services are planned for 11 a.m. Thursday, June 30 at Antioch Baptist Church in White Cross. The family will receive friends at the church after the service. A special thanks to Meadowlands Hospice for their wonderful care and support.



Community Calendar

THURSDAY JUNE 30

Plants and Water — Part of the Complete Gardener Classes. Auditorium of the Agriculture Building, 45 South St., Pittsboro, 9:30am or 6:30pm Free 542-8202

Locally Grown — Showing *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of Black Pearl*. Top of Wallace Parking Deck, 8pm Free

Friends of Downtown — Monthly meeting with speaker Blair Pollock from OCSW. Second floor of the Franklin Hotel, 10am Free

NC Songwriter's Showcase — With songwriters Berkeley Grimbail, Jim Haggard, Jean Caffeine, Louise

Bendall, The Cloers and Joe Woodson. Weaver Street Market, Hillsborough, 7-8:30pm

FRIDAY JULY 1

Square Dance — With live music by The Blue Ridge Road Gang. Carrboro Century Center, Lesson/7:30pm, dance/8pm Free ncsquares.com

First Friday Art — At Saxaphaw Artists Co-op, with music by Dmitri Resnik Band. 1610 Jordan Drive, Saxaphaw, 6-9pm 525-2394

Parking Permits — Residential parking permit renewal begins for residents of Chapel Hill's special parking zones. The new permit year begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2012. 968-2758

MONDAY JULY 4

Carrboro 4th of July — Begins at Weaver Street Market at 9:30am and moves to the Town Hall, via parade, at 11am carrborojuly4th.com

TUESDAY JULY 5

Movie Nite — Showing *True Grit* with Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and Josh Brolin. Chapel Hill Public Library, 6:30pm Free

WEDNESDAY JULY 6

Public Election Funding — The Town of Chapel Hill's Voter Owned Election Program will be discussed at a public information session. Council Chamber of Town Hall, 7pm

FRIDAY JULY 8

2nd Friday ArtWalk — Presenting "Just Add Water." University Mall, 6-8pm

ONGOING

Cancer Support — Support groups at Comucopia Cancer Support Center for cancer patients and their families. Cancersupport4u.org 401-9333

Cancer Support — Support groups and wellness programs sponsored by N.C. Cancer Hospital. undineberger.org/patient/support/supportgroup.asp

Legal Workshops — Third Thursday of each month, running through October: The Women's Center, 6-7:30pm Free 968-4610

MOVIE LISTINGS

We suggest you call for exact show times.

CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM

309 W. Morgan St., 560-3030

Closed temporarily for renovations. Will reopen in August for the N.C. Gay & Lesbian Film Festival and resume regular movie screenings in October.

CHELSEA THEATER

Timberlyne, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, 968-3005

Buck; Midnight in Paris; The Tree of Life

THE LUMINA

Southern Village, 932-9000

Bad Teacher; Cars 2; Larry Crowne; Super 8; Transformers: Dark of the Moon

REGAL TIMBERLYNE 6

120 Banks Drive, 933-8600

Transformers: Dark of the Moon; Monte Carlo; Bad Teacher; Cars 2 3D; Super 8

THE VARSITY

123 E. Franklin St., 967-8665

Rio; Something Borrowed; Water for Elephants

Send your Community Calendar submissions to calendar@carrborocitizen.com

All listings start Friday.

WWW.CARRBOROCITIZEN.COM

Only a click away.

Eat good food.

Take care of the earth. Keep it local.

Fresh, Organic Fruits and Vegetables

Local, Grass-Fed Beef

Freshly Baked Artisanal Breads and Pastries

Homemade Dips, Spreads & Sandwiches



Open 7 days 3 locations: Carrboro Southern Village Hillsborough
weaverstreetmarket.coop facebook.com/weaverstreet twitter.com/weaverstreet

Briefs

East Weaver to open soon

The east block of Weaver Street could reopen within the week, as the final layer of asphalt was placed on Wednesday.

Pavement marking will occur over the next couple of days, depending on weather conditions, and town officials anticipate that the block will be opened to vehicle traffic sometime next week. Once the east block is open, a portion of the west block from North Greensboro Street to a point between The Red Hen and Provence will be closed. The work is part of in the yearlong project to replace the street's collapsing roadbed and the 80-year-old sewer line beneath it.

The town may hold a reopening celebration for the east block in which the street would be closed to cars but open to pedestrians and cyclists. For up-to-date information on the celebration, visit carrborogreenspace.org

Filing season opens

The filing period for candidates for municipal and school board elections opens Friday and closes July 15.

Carrboro Board of Aldermen member Lydia Lavelle announced this week that she will seek reelection this fall. In addition, Lee Storrow, a recent UNC alumnus and managing director of the N.C. Alliance for Health, announced last week that he would run for a seat on the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Holiday closings

Most municipal offices will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Schedule changes include:

- Carrboro and Hillsborough residential refuse collection scheduled for Monday will be collected Tuesday;
- Chapel Hill Transit will not operate;
- Chapel Hill residential refuse scheduled for Monday collection will be collected Wednesday, while commercial refuse collections scheduled for Monday will be collected Tuesday;
- Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers will be closed;
- the Orange County Landfill will be closed;
- the Chapel Hill Public Library will be closed; and
- the Chapel Hill Parking Office will be closed and all municipal parking will be free.

Shope leaving Orange County

Orange County officials announced last week that Gary Shope, interim economic development director for the county, will leave his position in mid-July.

Shope generated significant accomplishments in his time with the county. Earlier this month, AKG of America selected its Mebane site in Orange County over a site in South Dakota for expansion of their manufacturing facilities.

Shope had recently accepted the full-time economic development director position.

CHT seeks public input

Chapel Hill Transit will hold two public forums to provide information and gather input on proposed cancellation and subscription policies for EZ Rider, CHT's paratransit program.

The first forum will be held Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Seymour Senior Center Auditorium on Homestead Road. The second forum will be held July 11 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill Town Hall.

Interested persons unable to attend the public forums may review the proposed policies at chtransit.org and submit comments by email to chtransit@townofchapelhill.org or call customer service at 969-4900.

Electronics banned from landfills

As of July 1, electronics cannot go in the trash or be disposed of in any N.C. landfill. Components of the law are designed to create statewide recycling opportunities for discarded electronics and to place significant responsibilities on electronics manufacturers to help fund and create those opportunities.

Orange County residents can recycle their electronics at all five of the Solid Waste Convenience Centers located throughout the county. Orange County residents and businesses and other non-residential entities can recycle their electronics at the Orange County Landfill.

Visit co.orange.nc.us/recycling/centers.asp for details.

Airport authority legislation repealed

BY SUSAN DICKSON
Staff Writer

Legislation authorizing UNC to establish an airport authority was repealed last week with the approval of the Government Reduction Act.

The bill includes the "elimination of certain state boards and commissions that have not met recently, are duplicative or are not deemed critical," and repeals a 2008 statute that allowed the UNC Board of Governors to create an airport authority. The authority was intended to find a site for an airport that would replace the Horace Williams Airport when it closed for the con-

struction of the Carolina North project. A number of county residents came out against the airport authority, citing concerns about negative impacts on neighbors, the environment and local farms.

In 2009, UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp announced that the university would not seek the approval of an airport authority and that the Area Health Education Centers program — which uses Horace Williams for flight operations — would move to Raleigh-Durham International Airport. AHEC is in the process of moving to RDU, where a \$3 million hangar has recently been completed.

"The fact is, the state is so broke right now that there's no way they're going to build Carolina North," Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, who represents Orange County, said in an interview on Tuesday. "If they're not going to build Carolina North, they might as well keep the airport open."

Reps. Verla Insko and Joe Hackney, who represent Orange County, and Kinnaird initiated adding the UNC authority legislation to the bill.

Cliff Leath, a board member of Preserve Rural Orange, a grassroots organization that grew out of opposition to the airport, applauded the delegation's initiative.

"The repeal of the airport authority legislation gives us all a cause to rejoice and thank our legislators for listening to us," Leath said in a press release. "It also reminds us that people working together for the common good can and do make a difference. The formation of Preserve Rural Orange, meetings held at White Cross Community Center, petitions that neighbors signed, news articles and letters to the editor and communication efforts by Orange County Voice, local businesses and other community groups were all a testament to our resolve over this issue."

ALDERMEN

FROM PAGE 1

contractors and home-owners regularly seek laborers during the late morning and early afternoon hours," the letter states. "The ordinance has interfered with workers' ability to obtain employment during these times. Workers who have risked violating the law in an effort to put dinner on their families' tables that evening have been subjected to humiliating herding off the street corner by Carrboro police officers and their cruisers."

The letter also states that the ordinance is "overbroad and vague" and that the authors are

"deeply concerned about the ordinance's impact on the First Amendment," citing a 2009 N.C. Court of Appeals case in which a Winston-Salem ordinance was struck down because "mere presence in a public place cannot constitute a crime."

A group of residents came to the board on Tuesday to ask the board to repeal the ordinance.

"I understand that the anti-laboring ordinance was discussed at great length," said Judith Blau, a UNC professor and director of the Chapel Hill and Carrboro Human Rights Center. "You could not have recognized the increasing economic hardship that's facing everyone in the na-

tion, but most especially the day laborers, and it's this downturn in the economy that has made employment opportunities more difficult."

Alberto De Latorre told the board he has been working in Carrboro for 15 years, not always as a day laborer, but that as the economy has slowed he's found himself more frequently looking for jobs from the corner.

"I am here because I'm against the ordinance," Latorre said in Spanish, speaking to the board through a translator.

"The corner is part of Carrboro. It's always been there, and we always know where to find a job there," he said. "I feel fright-

ened to be there and the police showing up at 11. ... It feels bad."

Mark Dorosin, an attorney with the UNC Center for Civil Rights and one of the letter's authors, thanked board members for their recent efforts to work toward solutions for day laborers, but asked them to repeal the ordinance.

"We know you are looking at other issues related to workers' rights and the day laborers, and we appreciate the consideration of those issues," he said. "I urge you not to let this particular issue — the ordinance and the repeal of the ordinance — get unnecessarily caught up in other issues that you are dealing with."

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

Several council members expressed apprehension at an interoperability agreement, but said they were willing to try to come to an agreement with the county.

"I don't see the risk of leaving things alone for a year ... and seeing if we can come to an agreement that makes sense," council member Gene Pease said. "For me, it buys time and saves this town a lot of money this fiscal year."

"If we are going to get to this point where we are getting what we consider to be a fair share from them ... they're also going to want to have their fair share of say," council member Donna Bell said. "We're also going to have to decide what the cost of freedom and lack of entanglement is for us."

Council members Laurin Easthom and Matt Czajkowski voted in favor of charging a \$60 fee-per-family for non-Chapel Hill residents of Orange County to use the library.

"We are ... looking at years and years of subsidizing people

who live out of town," Easthom said. "I just think it's the most reasonable and fiscally equitable way of assuming the increase in our operational costs due to this huge expansion and capital cost."

Czajkowski agreed.

"So what changed in terms of a different apparent attitude on the part of the commissioners from two weeks ago to today?" Czajkowski said. "For the first time, they actually believed that we were going to say no to their money and start charging the nonresidents."

"A year from now, we're going

to be on the threshold of a brand new library — substantially higher costs that we're going to have to find a way to fund, and it will be that much harder to walk away from what the county is offering," he continued. "The only time we have gotten any response out of the commissioners was when they actually believed that we would ... tell non-Chapel Hill residents that they had to pay, and it will become much more difficult."

"When it comes to interoperability, how much control of our library are we going to be willing to cede?"

ARTSCENTER

FROM PAGE 1

In February, The ArtsCenter's board of directors announced they had voted to restructure the center's leadership, eliminating the executive director position that Ed Camp had held since August 2009.

The ArtsCenter is now in phase two of an interim plan. The first phase involved re-evaluating the center's finances and organizational structure.

In phase two, the management team is working to solidify the center's financial and organizational structure to create, Miller said, "a sustainable framework that continues the excellent programming we've presented for over 35 years."

"We're now taking a closer look at how we do business," Miller said, adding that The ArtsCenter is "close to bringing in other foundation dollars."

He also said the center will be employing a "Howard Dean approach" to fundraising, "asking for a little bit of money from a lot of

people."

The center has also now brought onboard Julie Tomkovic as development director. Tomkovic served in the same role for The ArtsCenter in the '90s, a time when membership peaked at around 1,200. Current membership, she said, is now in the 300s.

Tomkovic will be reinvigorating the membership drive, re-upping existing members and actively recruiting new ones. She intends to communicate more consistently with current members, actively encourage event attendees to join and

hold events to attract newcomers.

The center also will be introducing a program that will allow parents to drop their kids off for arts and crafts and other activities while attending events — a "family date night out," in Tomkovic's words.

Miller expressed optimism over The ArtsCenter's future:

"I think what's most important thing is that we're improving our financial situation pretty dramatically. We're in 100 percent better shape."

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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The Orange County Landfill will be CLOSED Monday July 4th.

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The Town of Carrboro will publish the **2011-2012 Community Resource and Visitors Guide** in September 2011. Businesses started since August 2010 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/Guide2010.pdf. Send all data to Robert Dickson at publisher@carrborocitizen.com by July 29, 2011.

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

The ArtsCenter

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MEDICAID FROM PAGE 1

serve people like the Wilsons. Under the plan, agencies that oversee mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse services will be granted a 1915(b)(c) waiver of the Social Security Act, moving them from a fee-for-service delivery system to a managed-care system.

The state's 23 local management entities (LMEs), which oversee publicly funded behavioral health care services, will be consolidated in an attempt to create administrative savings and efficiencies. Legislation passed this session stipulates that the consolidated LMEs will be given Medicaid, state and local funds in a lump sum, resulting in a managed-care system under the 1915(b)(c) waiver. The plan must now be approved by the federal government.

OPC Area Program, the LME that serves Orange, Person and Chatham counties, is preparing to merge with Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare (PBH), which serves Cabarrus, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties. In a pilot project begun in 2005, PBH has been the only LME to operate under the full 1915(b)(c) waiver, and will serve as the model for the statewide system.

It's all new ground. One high-level state official who asked not to be identified said of the shift to a statewide waiver system, "It's like moving from a slingshot to a rocket launcher." It's "the biggest thing to happen" to mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse services in "a long, long time" and, the official says, will put North Carolina on the cutting edge in the delivery of these services.

The objective is to provide more and better services to more individuals. The fee-for-service system had the potential to create incentives to provide patients with services they may not have needed, and proponents of managed care say that when LMEs are given lump sums with which to provide services to all who require them, equity will prevail. Clients, they say, will receive what they need — no more, and no less.

"We can't keep doing what we're doing," says Rep. Verla Insko of Orange County, a pri-

mary sponsor of the legislation. "There will be managed care. That's for certain."

In a May email to advocates, Patricia Porter, a consultant to the General Assembly on health and human services, echoed that sentiment: "The cost overruns, long waiting lists, duplication of administrative operations, lack of assurance that people are receiving the services they need and prefer ... cannot continue."

Insko acknowledges that, "Some things aren't going to work, and we'll have to back up."

She also acknowledges that she initially warned state Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Lanier Cansler that the move to a statewide waiver system was proceeding too quickly, that the target should be 2014.

Cansler himself said in 2009 that, "Using a Medicaid waiver to shift to managed behavioral healthcare represents a significant shift in thinking for all stakeholders in North Carolina. Such a change takes multiple years to research, implement and refine."

But Insko and Cansler are now on the fast track to a statewide waiver system.

According to Insko, Cansler has said, "If we're going too fast, we'll know by next year, and I'll slow it down."

Why the rush?

The transition has come fast.

A report commissioned by the DHHS and released last August by Mercer Government Human Services Consultants said the department was not fully prepared to move forward with the administration of the proposed system. It cited "an absence of senior licensed clinicians to help guide policies and procedures" and a "significant number of technical staff to support efficient business operations and reporting requirements."

Steve Jordan, director of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, acknowledges Mercer's assessments.

"Mercer did point to some infrastructure challenges," he says, "and these are being addressed independently and as a part of the individual and executive-level oversight groups."

As for the LMEs, Jordan says that the pace of implementation

won't "outstrip the readiness of the sites to do the work."

"Each will have to pass rigorous readiness reviews, both desk reviews and onsite reviews, and correct any shortcomings, before that site will be allowed to function as a 1915(b)(c) waiver site."

Concern

Of the three constituencies, the developmental disability community is most concerned. Advocates contend that managed care is a recovery model, but people don't recover from developmental disabilities.

"This waiver was set up for mental health," Carrboro self-advocate Ellen Perry says; "it's not set up for the DD population." She's concerned about losing hours of assistance with getting around that "keeps me safe and lets me be out in the community."

Mary K. Short, a Taylorsville advocate and mother of a 31-year-old daughter with a severe developmental disability, questions whether PBH's pilot project, the model for the statewide plan, has really saved money.

"It does not seem logical to me that any savings exist if there is a waiting list of people eligible for services," Short says.

PBH CEO Pam Shipman says that the managed-care system has allowed her agency to introduce what are called B-3 services.

"The B-3 services that we have added include respite and supported employment," Shipman says. "We have experienced significant reductions in our waiting list for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities because of these services. This was accomplished by moving people with Medicaid coverage to the B-3 services, thus reserving the state-funded services for people that do not have Medicaid."

More must be done with less, says Jordan.

"The likelihood of there being no new [federal] funding makes the waivers even more important," he says, "because waivers allow the current resources to be reallocated in ways that create savings and allow for those savings to be reinvested in services in the system."

"Because the waivers are operated as a capitated system, the LMEs must predict how many individuals are in need

Returning team reminiscent of 2009 Tar Heel champs

BY EDDY LANDRETH Staff Writer

The 2009 North Carolina team showed what a combination of experience and talent can accomplish in today's college basketball.

That team steamrolled the competition on the way to the NCAA title, exposing the rest of the field for all its weaknesses. This team has the potential to do the same.

"I've had five or six team that I thought, if they get lucky, if things go well, that they have a chance to win a national championship," coach Roy Williams said. "That is the same kind of thing I think with this team."

The irony is that UNC is a school with a tradition of sending its greatest players off to the NBA early with the blessings of its coach, sometimes even at the urging of its coach.

Dean Smith practically pushed Michael Jordan out the door after his junior season. Can you really imagine any other coach in the country even suggesting, particularly at that time, that a player like Jordan should leave early?

Williams may not push his guys out the door, but he holds it open. He gives them all the information he can before they make the decision to stay or return, and he also gives his blessing. Williams understands how

much money is involved and he knows the dream of practically every kid he recruits is to play in the NBA.

Yet in 2009, Williams had the closest thing we will probably see to the old senior-oriented teams of years gone by, and it showed. Those kids swam against the stream by returning to school and rewarded themselves with memories they will carry for life.

The team returning this fall will not be as experienced as the 2009 team, but it may be every bit as talented. In Harrison Barnes, the team has a truly rare individual. There just are not many players with Barnes' talent and potential who would come back for a second year of college.

But he did. And because he is coming back, along with John Henson and Tyler Zeller, two more players who could have been drafted in the first round, Carolina is once again going to have a monster of a team.

"There was one point I thought we were going to lose all three," Williams said. "There was one point I thought we were going to get all three back, and everything in between. I was not surprised by John and Z because of the conversations I had with them. I had gotten the impression that was the way they were leaning."

"Harrison is a great poker player," Williams said, "or could



be. I really went back and forth on what I thought he would do."

Barnes certainly did not return to lose.

"Just think about the Kentucky loss [in the round

of eight]," Barnes said. "With so much at stake, I think they had more of an edge than we did. When we lost that game, our season ended."

"Just having that chip on your shoulder, just knowing if you don't come out with the right edge your season can be ended like that, I think that is going to keep us on our edge all year."

About the only hurdle one can envision stopping this club is injury — and taking note of all the injuries in 2008, '09 and '10, that possibility is very real.

Nonetheless, there is no reason to be pessimistic as the heat of the summer increases. Now is the time to relish what is to come and the fact that those big three did return to school.

"If I'm advising the Carolina people," Williams said, "I'm saying, 'Look forward to it; enjoy every day; enjoy every game. And if some good things keep happening at the end of the year, enjoy it even more.'"

of service in order to determine the amount of money they will receive to provide these services," says Rep. Jeff Barnhart of Cabarrus County, another primary sponsor of the legislation. "There are a number of strategies to determine this information, and this data is closely monitored by the Division of Medical Assistance."

Jordan says that though each system is unique, his office is learning from other states' experiences. Managed care has worked elsewhere.

In a 2009 report for the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities, Robert Gettings, former head of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, wrote that in his research on states

that have implemented managed care, no one, not even those who were initially its sharpest critics, suggested that "people with developmental disabilities would be better off were [developmental disability] services to be carved out of the managed care program."

Mahadevan is guardedly optimistic. He likens the change to replacing a credit card with a debit card. "You know your limit."

Hoping

Gettings warned in his report that, "A managed care system is complex, with many moving parts; and, to function effectively, these systems require the active engagement of skilled management staff at the state level."

Is the state ready? Toni Wilson certainly hopes so.

"Thava says he never knows what's going to happen with services. And Michael don't need to go through that, because it worries him, puts pressure on him and makes him act out. He came to me and said, 'They're cutting out all my stuff? And then he can tell I'm upset about it. It's a mess. I don't know what to expect.'"

The uncertainty frightens Perry as well.

"I'm scared for everybody," she says.

Insko can understand why. But, she says, "There's good reason to be fearful if we don't make changes."

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Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for clues.

CitizenCryptoquote by Martin Brody. Includes a word search puzzle and a list of words to find.

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School Briefs

Pedersen honored

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Superintendent Neil Pedersen was honored last week at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce Local Government Appreciation Reception, which was held in the Great Room at Top of the Hill.

Pedersen and Carrboro Town Manager Steve Stewart are both retiring later this summer, and they were presented with certificates honoring their service. The chamber also made a donation to the

Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate program in honor of Pedersen and to a local church in honor of Stewart.

ECHHS student gets medicine scholarship

Chi Le, a rising junior at East Chapel Hill High School, received a \$2,500 scholarship to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, a 10-day workshop for high school students interested in pursuing careers in medicine.

Le is involved with the East Cha-

pel Hill High Science Club and Science Olympiad Team. She also has volunteered at UNC Hospitals. The forum was hosted by UNC Healthcare and took place in Chapel Hill from June 19-28.

School construction underway across district

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools have been out for just two weeks, but construction has already brought marked changes to familiar campuses.

New roofs are being installed at Mc-

Dougle Elementary School, the new wing of Ephesus Elementary School and the auxiliary gym, weight room, cafeteria and vocational buildings at Chapel Hill High School. CHHS' gym will also undergo a floor and bleacher replacement.

Site preparation work is underway at Glenwood Elementary School for a new mobile unit, and bathroom improvements will occur at Ephesus, Estes Hills Elementary School, Phillips Middle School and CHHS.

Rashkis' Moore named Data Manager of the Year

Tasha Moore, Rashkis Elementary School's data manager, was selected as the 2010-11 Data Manager of the Year.

Moore's efforts this year to change from taking attendance on paper to using NCWISE exemplify her constant drive to improve efficiency and reduce the time required to meet the district and school's need for student information. She also found time in the past school year to train new staff.

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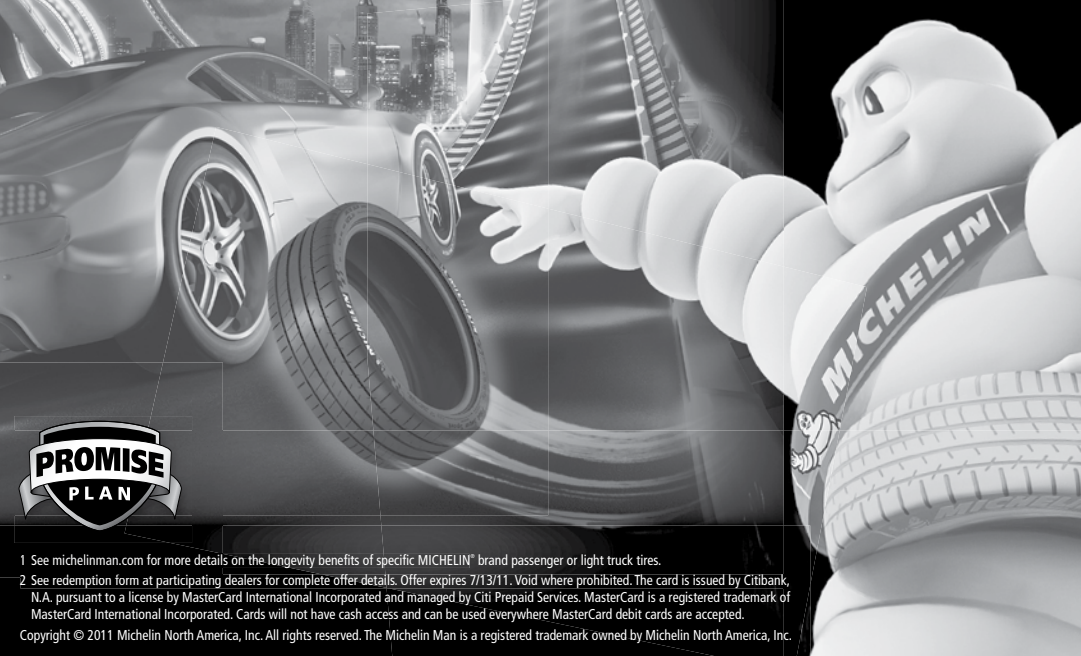


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Out of the mainstream

JOE HACKNEY

Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools will eliminate 500 jobs soon and have declared it a victory. Cumberland County is cutting nearly 400 workers from its school system. Wake County has pink-slipped 200 school employees and more are waiting to hear if they will have jobs in the fall. Kannapolis City Schools have fired 114 educators; Harnett County, 88, most of them teacher assistants; Duplin County, 210; and Lee County, 50.

Our universities and community colleges also plan to lay off thousands. N.C. Central University just announced that 107 positions will be eliminated under this plan, and more educators will follow them to the unemployment line as the evidence mounts that this Republican legislature's budget fails to protect education. And Republicans own it. Legislative Democrats fervently opposed this proposal and the governor issued a well-warranted veto. They failed to listen and fought hard to keep this job-destroying plan in place.

But while they did not find time to save jobs during this session that was supposed to be about the economy, this legislature was otherwise busy. They exerted great effort pushing a partisan, right-wing social agenda that most people in North Carolina neither wanted nor expected. Their work includes:

- attempted state-level repeal of the federal health care reform law, a useless effort the governor vetoed;
- voter suppression in nearly every way possible. They passed legislation to shorten early voting, end straight-ticket voting and require government-issued IDs at the polls. They want to end voter registration drives and same-day voter registration. They also want to inject party politics and pay-to-play into more races by requiring judges again to run in partisan races and ending public financing for some statewide offices;
- softer gun laws. House Republicans inexplicably voted to allow guns on school grounds and in bars. Both chambers have approved a law allowing concealed weapons in our state parks;
- intruding into the confidential doctor-patient relationship by giving doctors a script to recite to patients seeking abortions and requiring a 24-hour waiting period. They offer no exceptions for victims of rape or incest or for women whose health is threatened;
- blocking access to low-interest loans for some community college students;
- attempting to increase access to short-term, high-interest loans, over the stringent objections of our state's military leaders; and
- rolling back many of our environmental regulations to federal minimums while gutting the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. They are also moving too quickly to allow offshore oil drilling and potentially hazardous "fracking" in search of natural gas.

None of these policies create jobs or improve our economy. They are mostly outside the mainstream thinking of our moderate electorate and will take us backwards to a time when our state was less educated and less competitive. Already, we have fallen to 49th in the nation in per-pupil funding with this budget, and deeper cuts are called for next year. It was a poor start for Republican leaders who are increasingly proving to be out of touch with the people of North Carolina.

Rep. Joe Hackney is the leader of the N.C. House Democratic Caucus. He was Speaker of the House of Representatives from 2007-11. He represents portions of Orange, Chatham and Moore counties.

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File under hmmm

KIRK ROSS

For some folks, the summer doldrums are starting. Others are hitting the road or the beach. But a few of us are on the edge of our seats waiting for filing season and the start of the local elections cycle.

I've never been able to figure out why most people don't take much of an interest in local races. Around here, there are no elections in which your vote has more of an impact than in the off-year municipal and school board races. The composition of the various boards of local government is likely to have the biggest effect on your life.

This is the season when you have the most leverage over the people making decisions in your name. Even if you're happy with our local leadership, this is the time to convey your take on issues before them. You may even knock someone sitting on the fence on something one way or the other.

And it's not just the people running who are listening. Their fellow board members, knowing their own reelection is just a cycle away, are paying attention as well.

Critical decisions facing the leaders of both Carrboro and Chapel Hill will be shaped by the results of the 2011 races. Carrboro's downtown evolution, including what becomes of the library site and the continued quest for a commercial area in its northern reaches, comes to mind. Chapel Hill's list includes a new comprehensive plan, the eventual plopping of a much-rumored big-box store and how the town will deal with its properties, including building a new police station and repurposing the old library and the soon-to-be-former downtown shelter.

Some of the fire and fury in this election will be a referendum on the current leadership of both towns. It always is. But much of what has happened in local government in the past few years has been management in tough times. There has been some progress, or whatever you want to call it, but

the tough decisions have mainly been about putting things off, like delaying the library project, rather than pushing ahead. And with a slower economy, the towns have had fewer controversial developments come to a vote.

The record of the past couple of years will certainly be up for discussion in the months ahead, but the election of 2011 promises to be less about the past two years and more about the next 10.

Hold the champagne

Ah, the smell of a new fiscal year – all fresh and clean and quite underfunded. Bleh.

As of July 1 – this Friday – the 2011-12 state budget takes effect. It is no longer hypothetical – and though crafted by many an anti-government type, it did not do away entirely with government. There are still schools to open, kids to teach, roads to repair, justice to distribute, science to do and so on.

I'm not sure what the percentage is now, but for a long time roughly six out of every 10 payroll dollars in this community came from the public purse – state, local or federal. Now there are fewer of those payroll dollars going around, and the reality is settling in.

Not only are times tight, but whole programs, even those thought of as highly successful, are being mothballed. While some of the cuts have been locally directed, others were done from far-away Raleigh in often-indiscriminate fashion. People who have gone above and beyond for years are losing their jobs. Survivors, naturally, are taking on their chores and looking over their shoulders. In that way, government really is being run more like a corporation.

The downsize-government folks may have demanded leaner operations, but it's the people who work for you and me – our friends, family and coworkers – who have to get up each day and make that happen. Godspeed, y'all, and happy new year.

BIG CITY

A new day for the privileged few

CHRIS FITZSIMON

These are heady days if you are a wealthy individual or work for a wealthy special interest that wants something from state government: a tax break, an end to a regulation, a change in how state contracts are awarded.

It may not be a foregone conclusion that you can buy yourself what you need, but in light of recent court decisions and the behavior of the current General Assembly, it's likely that you can get what you want with significant and well-placed campaign contributions and a few well-heeled lobbyists to work out the details.

Normally you wouldn't be able to buy access to legislative leaders now, as the General Assembly is taking a break in its long session before coming back to town in a couple of weeks to debate redistricting and changes in election laws.

But House leaders asked for and received an advisory opinion from the State Board of Elections that said lawmakers could raise money from political action committees if there are at least 10 days between the recess or end of the session and when lawmakers reconvene.

That was all the House leaders needed, so now you can whisper a few words in key legislators' ears this week at a downtown Raleigh restaurant if you fork over \$500. If you want to have a longer conversation and curry more favor, you can be a sponsor of the event for \$5,000.

If you think that's an overly cynical view, consider a few of the points raised recently by Democracy North Carolina about the apparent relationship between money and policy this legislative session.

A food wholesaler's PAC gave \$15,000 to the Senate Republican Caucus and lawmakers passed legislation that allowed the company to keep its \$2 million tax break even though it is laying off workers instead of hiring new ones like company officials promised when the tax break was granted.

The consumer loan industry gave more than \$100,000 to Republicans in 2010 and the House responded by passing legislation to allow them to charge much higher interest rates and fees. That came over the objections of military leaders who were worried about the predatory loan companies prey-

Now you can whisper a few words in key legislators' ears this week at a downtown Raleigh restaurant if you fork over \$500. If you want to have a longer conversation and curry more favor, you can be a sponsor of the event for \$5,000.

ing on soldiers.

The PAC for John Deere & Co. gave more than \$100,000 in 2010. The company was rewarded with changes to the state's contracting regulations to make it easier for company officials to sell to the state.

There are plenty more examples but you get the idea. Money not only talks, it legislates. And it doesn't look like it will stop anytime soon.

This week's House Republican fundraiser comes just two days after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down an important part of Arizona's public financing program.

The decision prompted renewed calls from the right to end the public financing experiment altogether in North Carolina, leaving all elections once again for sale to the highest special-interest bidder.

It comes on the heels of last year's Supreme Court decision that allowed corporations to spend money directly and anonymously on elections and it comes as North Carolina lawmakers are considering major reductions in funding for oversight and enforcement of campaign finance reporting and disclosure laws.

That's all part of freedom, according to the folks at the right-wing tanks, and it is music to the ears of wealthy special interests that keep opening their checkbooks to make investments in campaigns for which they expect a return.

That's not the way democracy is supposed to work, that people with the most money have the most political power. But that is exactly the way it works these days.

You can get a preview of the next tax breaks that will be granted or the next regulations that will be abolished by watching to see who pays their \$500 or \$5,000 to walk into the Raleigh restaurant this week to talk to Republican House leaders.

The theme of the fundraiser is "a new day for North Carolina," and things are looking brighter for those with the money to buy the tickets and the access they bring.

It is a new day indeed, a new day for those who can pay.

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

LETTERS

Court time

The state budget cuts will have many unintended consequences, but I'd like to alert the community to one that may be under the radar.

State funding for the Dispute Settlement Center, which for 33 years has provided mediation for clients in district court, has been eliminated. Statewide, community mediation centers using volunteers served 25,000 people in 80 counties on an allocation of \$1.3 million. Court time was saved and relationships were often salvaged or improved.

Our criminal district court system struggles to handle growing caseloads with chronic and now worsened underfunding. Without mediators, the workload will increase and citizens may spend even more time in court.

Mediation began in North Carolina at the Dispute Settlement Center in Orange County in 1978. We have a proud history of helping individuals and groups solve conflicts and training young people to have better skills in approaching conflict.

We are open for business, and continue to help coworkers, neighbors, small-business owners, contractors and family members find common ground. With the community's help, we will continue to try to provide services to all.

FRANCES HENDERSON
*Executive Director,
Dispute Settlement Center
Carrboro*

Thanks, gov

Thank you, Gov. Perdue, for standing on the right side of history by vetoing the voter ID bill. For more than 225 years, our elected officials, both Republican and Democrat, have presumed our citizens to be fair and honest. Suddenly, we have a Republican majority in Raleigh that doesn't trust our citizens, presumes they are not honest. That could be the only explanation for why Republicans passed a bill that disenfranchises seniors, college students, newly married/divorced women and African-Americans. What are they afraid of? Republicans don't trust the citizens who have entrusted them to serve. But we Democrats have always had faith in our people. That's why we stand with Gov. Perdue and her veto of a thinly veiled voter-suppression bill that would roll back decades of progress of voting rights. To believe or not to believe, that's not even a question.

RANDOLPH VOLLER
*Chair of the Chatham
County Democratic Party*

LETTERS POLICY

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Consider common plantain a deer-proof hosta look-alike. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA
FROM PAGE 1

Considered by most a ubiquitous weed, plantain is sometimes called white-man's-foot, thought to have arrived in America on the feet of European settlers. Some taxonomists, however, consider that it may be native to the northeastern U.S. Regardless, it is everywhere, and maligned throughout as a weed.

I return to Tom Brown. His mentor, Grandfather, was a wise Apache elder who absorbed the valued lessons of all cultures. Referring to a discussion he had with Grandfather as to why people refer to plants as weeds, Tom writes: "To me, it is an alien term, because every plant I knew had some use or another. Some of them were very critical to survival conditions and I could not have made

it through many an outing without them. Grandfather said most people's feet are removed from the soil and the wisdom of their ancient ancestors. Because of cultivated crops and other customs, many plants and animals have little or no use to modern man, which is why he is so apt to destroy them without a second thought.

"Plants are edible, medicinal or utilitarian in some way. Grandfather stated emphatically that even if we did not know the use of a plant, we should consider its importance to the overall plan of the natural world. Nothing has been put on this Earth without a very definite purpose."

Early on, Grandfather had learned to prize plantains for both food and medicine, and he taught young Tom many uses, from the nourishing values of leaves and seeds to the almost legendary medicinal properties of leaves,

roots and seeds. To the Navajo, plantain was the "life medicine." Wisdom helps us view a lawn of plantain as an asset.

I now have an additional enthusiasm for plantains. Several years ago, I noticed that some of my robustly growing plantains somewhat resembled the revered horticultural hostas. Knowing how gardeners are in constant battle with the hosta-loving deer, I decided that I would adopt these deer-proof hosta look-alikes as prized specimens. In the next day or two, I'm going to pot up a few to grow as foliage plants on the deck. I imagine that with extra water and compost, I'll have specimen plants that will be the envy of west Carrboro.

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at The Annotated Flora (carrborocitizen.com/flora).



Val Lauder Interviews Old Blue Eyes, 1948

Val Lauder, who retired this spring at 85 after teaching feature writing at the School of Journalism & Mass Communication for 31 years, had an illustrious career as a reporter and columnist for the Chicago Daily News, interviewing the likes of President Harry Truman, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower – and, as seen here, Frank Sinatra. Val, who was honored in 2009 as a "Town Treasure" of Chapel Hill, remembers this 1948 interview at a press party in Chicago's Ambassador East hotel to promote the release of the movie *The Miracle of the Bells*. Sinatra, whose open disdain for the press was legendary, was always very nice to Val. Looking back, she says, "I worked with and wrote about young people ... who he liked. I was also one of them – 19, 20, 21, just turned 22 in the picture here. And we'd already worked together two or three times." A pause. "He was charming," she recalls, "and very nice to me. He wrote a guest column for me later that year. Typed it on the plane flying in for a benefit for the C.Y.O. at the Chicago Stadium, where I picked it up after his performance."



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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