



FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy
52/34

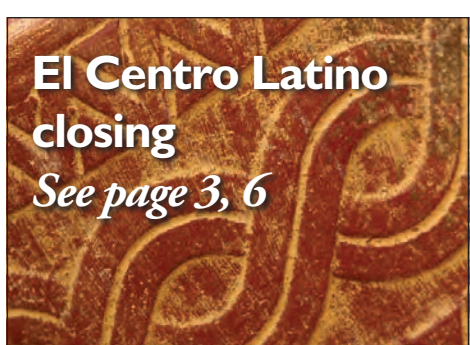


SATURDAY
30% chance of rain
43/27



SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
49/29

C THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



El Centro Latino
closing
See page 3, 6



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

Mark Catesby's colored illustration of the "garish purple" berries of American beautyberry.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Beautyberry's English experience

I am grateful to a loyal reader of the *Citizen* for passing on to me Andrea Wulf's *The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession*, published last year. This account of the lives and passions of pioneer plant explorers and avid gardeners of the 18th and 19th centuries is engaging reading. Just a few nights ago, I was captivated by a copy of Mark Catesby's color illustration of American beautyberry.

English plant explorer Mark Catesby is credited with introducing our native beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*, to England in 1724. Wealthy English merchant Peter Collinson, with an obsession for growing plants, also received specimens of beautyberry from Philadelphia farmer John Bartram, who had made collections from his travels in South Carolina.

With Collinson's financial help, Catesby published the colored drawings and written accounts of his American travels, *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*, in a 10-part series from 1729 to 1748. His illustration of beautyberry caught the attention of English gardeners eager for new plants from America. His verbal description was equally engaging: "a highly unusual plant which wore its garish purple berries around its branches like bead bracelets."

Though Collinson succeeded in bringing this American shrub to fruit, the English climate did not favor it for extended periods. As Phillip Miller, another avid English gardener, whose 1731 first edition of *Gardeners Dictionary* became the standard botanical/horticultural reference for gardeners worldwide, noted in his 1768 edition, "they had flowered, but to the great frustration of gardeners had failed to produce the desirable bright purple berries."

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

Waste transfer station vote looms

Residents, civil rights center challenge site near landfill on Millhouse Road

BY TAYLOR SISK
Staff Writer

As the Orange County Board of Commissioners prepares to vote on the county's future solid-waste disposal options, one site under consideration is a county-owned plot of land on Millhouse Road. But Millhouse Road homeowners, with support from the UNC Center for Civil Rights, are now challenging the legality of consideration of that site, saying that sales deeds for the property and adjacent and surrounding properties explicitly state that they are to be used for residential purposes only.

The commission is scheduled to vote at its Dec. 7 meeting on whether to place a transfer station on the Mill-

house property (called the Paydarfar site after its previous owner) or on a previously approved site off N.C. 54 near Orange Grove Road, or to pursue a deal with Durham County to use its transfer facility.

Residents of the Millhouse community, those of the Rogers-Eubanks community and other county residents have protested the proposed Millhouse site, questioning why it was submitted for consideration many months into the search process and without having been subjected to the same exclusionary-criteria process as previously proposed sites, and because it's within a half mile of the Rogers-Eubanks neighborhood, which has lived with the county's landfill for 37 years.

Now a new challenge has been mounted.

The deed to the Paydarfar property includes a restrictive covenant stating that the "property hereinabove described shall be used for residential purposes only."

This restriction is included in the deed for the August 1979 sale of the Paydarfar property from its original owners, Eugene and Julia Blackwood, to Francis and Jenny Chan and is referenced in the subsequent transfers of the property, including the deed for the sale of the property in 2007 from the Paydarfar family to the county.

Restrictive covenants are legally enforceable limitations on the use of a property. They're commonly used by homeowners' associations to restrict

residents from certain practices – for example, painting a home a garish color or parking an industrial vehicle in the driveway. In such a scenario, all homeowners are bound by the same restrictions and are thus in a position to enforce them.

Mark Dorosin, senior managing attorney at the UNC Center for Civil Rights, said he believes those homeowners on Millhouse Road whose properties hold the same restrictions have the right to challenge the use of the Paydarfar property for nonresidential use – that the restrictive covenants were "clearly intended to benefit and burden all adjoining property owners."

SEE MILLHOUSE PAGE 7



Brian Plaster spent time in the drizzle Wednesday trimming up some of the 500 Frasier furs on sale at Johnny's in Carrboro. Plaster said trees are moving more briskly than last year. He suspects the town's recent baby boom has more families staying home for the holidays. Plaster said he gets his trees exclusively from the Ashe County tree farm run by Carrboro native Lawrence McAdams. PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Tree Trimming

Lessons in improv or: How I learned to stop worrying and love the jokes that bomb

BY CHARLIE TYSON
Staff Writer

I am not Jerry Seinfeld.
I am not even Larry the Cable Guy, who recently topped *Newsweek's* list of the world's least-funny comedians.

While I will often venture onstage against the dull brick wall of a comedy theater, I am far from a professional comic. I'm simply an enthusiastic conversationalist.

"Improv is the skill of having a conversation," improvisational comedy performer and teacher Kit FitzSimons said. "The core of improv is really what gets us through the day in normal life — supporting the people we're around, getting ideas out faster, moving plans forward."

I am one of many local high school students dallying in this craft of onstage conversation. The mere existence of high school improv — a rarity in other regions of North Carolina — may be surprising to some. However, improv is firmly entrenched in the cultural history of our area, and high school improv is at the heart of it all.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DSI COMEDY THEATER
Local high school students try their hand at improvisational comedy at a recent event hosted by DSI Comedy Theater in Carrboro.

Many know Zach Ward as the owner of Carrboro's DSI Comedy Theater. DSI's influence over the cultural scene of Carrboro is undeniable; yet Ward's forays into improv began during his time as a student at Chapel Hill High when, in 1993, he founded Chapel Hill High Improv. Chapel Hill's improv team had ex-

isted in prior years as a faculty-run organization, but Ward's revival of the troupe as a student-run group sparked a chain reaction. In a series of events affirming improv's cardinal maxim of "Yes-And," teams also bloomed at East and Cedar Ridge.

SEE IMPROV PAGE 8

Texting ban takes effect: put it down and drive

BY BETH MECHUM
Staff Writer

North Carolina's ban on sending text messages while driving went into effect Dec. 1. Getting caught in the act will mean a \$100 fine.

And don't expect police officers to go easy on first-time offenders.

Carrboro Police public information officer Captain Joel Booker said that though it's up to each police officer's discretion, he expects more fines than warnings to be handed out.

"The likelihood of catching someone doing it is so low, if you do catch someone doing it you almost feel compelled to enforce it through a fine," Booker said. "We're not trying to make an example out of someone, but it's important people know it's dangerous."

The law applies only to the driver and only while the vehicle is moving.

Booker said the ban has particular significance in a town such as Carrboro, where the downtown area is congested not only with motorists but pedestrians and bikers as well.

"I can't imagine why someone would want to text and drive an automobile," he said. "To me, that would almost be like someone with a firearm closed their eyes and started shooting. What you're driving is just as dangerous, and you're not watching where you're going with it."

Booker said the Carrboro Police Department has not discussed in great detail how to enforce the ban.

"We're not going to set up a checkpoint — we don't have resources available," Booker said. "If the officer felt very confident that someone was texting and that they could safely get that person pulled over, then they will."



INSIDE

Legislators question Blue Cross Blue Shield efforts

See page 6

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Last week's BOA report is on page 3

New board sworn in

BY BETH MECHUM
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — The 2010 Carrboro Board of Aldermen was sworn in Tuesday night at its weekly meeting at Town Hall.

Mayor Mark Chilton, who heartily thanked his family for their work on the campaign trail, starts his third term as mayor. He received 1,667 votes, 1,216 votes more than his closest competitor.

Jacque Gist will be serving her fifth term, Randee Haven-O'Donnell her second and Sammy Slade will be serving his first full term as alderman. Slade, who was the top vote-getter in November's election with 1,471 votes, took John Herrera's resigned seat for most of the month of November.

Gist and Haven-O'Donnell received 1,515 votes and 1,459 votes, respectively.

Haven-O'Donnell will keep her position as mayor pro tem. She was appointed pro tem after Herrera's resignation in August.

After swearing in, the board took action on a resolution presented at the Nov. 24 meeting by former alderman and senior attorney at the UNC Center for Civil Rights Mark Dorosin. The board unanimously passed the resolution supporting the efforts of the Rogers-Eubanks roads community to keep a waste transfer station away from Millhouse Road. A county-owned site that is now in the running for the waste transfer station is within a mile of the current landfill and the Rogers and Eubanks neighborhood.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to formally announce the waste transfer station site on Monday. The choice will be either Millhouse Road or a site on N.C. 54 or having trucks transfer the trash to a station in Durham.

MUSIC CALENDAR



LAND OF TALK
Local 506
Saturday December 5

THURSDAY DEC 3

Blue Bayou: John Saylor. 9pm. Free

Cats Cradle: Mike Posner, 2AM Club, Chiddy Bang, 9pm. \$15

The Cave: EARLY: Brandon Herndon and John Pardue's Song-slinger Showcase LATE: John Harrison, Brittain Ashford, Billy Sugarfix

General Store Cafe: Jazzbeau. 7-9 pm

Local 506: Radio Silent Auction, John Doe and The Runners, Mary Johnson Rockers. 9:30pm. Free

Reservoir: The Alcazar Hotel, Wood Ear.

FRIDAY DEC 4

ArtsCenter: Girlyman. 8:30pm. \$15

Blue Bayou: Adrian Duke. 9:30pm. \$8/10

The Cave: EARLY and LATE: Puritan Rodeo, Robobilly, Pink Flag, Studio Gangsters, Future Islands

General Store Cafe: Jonathan Byrd with Greg Humphrey. 8:30-11pm

Local 506: Lonnie Walker, I Was Totally Destroying It, Aminor. 10pm. Free

Reservoir: Death Came Down the Mountain, Curtains of Night, Minor Stars, Orphan.



RAEKWON
Cat's Cradle
Sunday December 6



ORPHAN
Reservoir
Sunday
December 6

SATURDAY DEC 5

Blue Bayou: Willie Painter Band. 9:30pm. \$8/10

Cats Cradle: Southern Culture on the Skids, Mad Tea Party, Pinche Gringo. 9:30pm. \$12/14

The Cave: EARLY: RODIE RAY Late: Simple, The Whale Watchers, Cricket Lovely Cricket

General Store Cafe: Triology's Annual Christmas Extravaganza

Local 506: Land of Talk, Old Bricks. 9:30pm. \$8/10

Nightlight: Cursillistas, Ghost Hand, Layne Garrett. 10pm

Open Eye Cafe: John Chasteen. 8pm

Reservoir: Transportation, Fin Fang Foom, Caltrop, Monsonia.

SUNDAY DEC 6

Cats Cradle: Raekwon, Capone-N-Noreaga, Queen Yonasda. 9:30pm. \$17/20

The Cave: EARLY: Ashley Adkins Band LATE: Mandolin Orange, Big Fat Gap!

General Store Cafe: Shamrockers. 8:30-11pm

Local 506: Holiday Show with The Sundowners, Max Indian, Ryan Gustafson, Mount Moriah, The Love Language, The Light Pines, Jeff Crawford, Josh Moore, Twelve Thousand Armies, The Tomahawks. \$8/10

Nightlight: Physics of Meaning, Joe Romeo, Perry Wright. 10pm

Open Eye Cafe: Luckys Starlight Lounge. 8pm

SATURDAY DEC 12

Blue Bayou: Fat Bastard Blues Band. 9:30pm. \$6/8

Cats Cradle: Salute to Pete Rock and DJ Premier with Skyzoo, Tyler Woods, Big Remo, Kaze, Thee Tom Hardy, Rapsody, Actual Proof, Cesar Comanche, Edgar Allan Floe, The Presidents, Jozeemo and K. Hill. 9pm. \$18/20

The Cave: EARLY: Star FK Radium. \$5 LATE: Embarrassing Fruits, Bambara, Reed Benjamin!

General Store Cafe: Tommy Edwards Christmas Show. 8:30-11pm. \$5

Local 506: Benji Hughes, Luego. 9:30pm. \$8

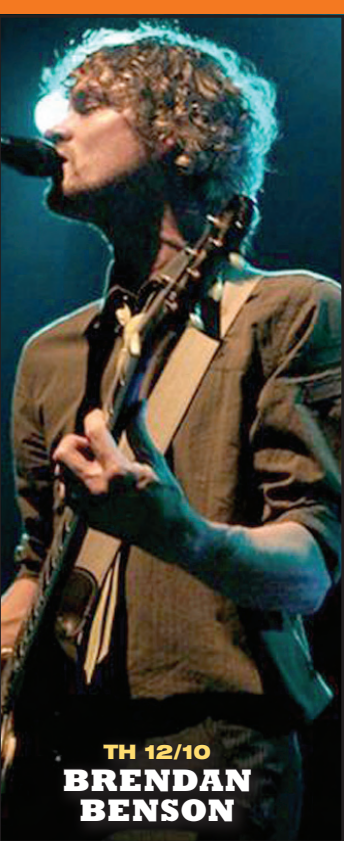
Nightlight: Juan Huevos, Wet Mango, Ex-Monkeys, Andy the Doorbum

Open Eye Cafe: Lisa Furukawa. 8pm

Got anything for the music calendar? Send submissions to calendar@carborocitizen.com



SA 12/15
TREKKY YULETIDE ORCHESTRA



TH 12/10
BRENDAN BENSON



SA 12/31
BILLY PRICE BAND



SU 12/6
RAEKWON

TH 12/3 MIKE POSNER
W/2am CLUB,
CHIDDY BANG**(\$15)

FR 12/4 WXYC 80S DANCE**

SA 12/5
SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS W/MAD TEA PARTY AND PINCHE GRINGO**(\$12/\$14)

SU 12/6 RAEKWON
W/CAPONE-N-NOREAGA,
QUEEN YONASDA AND
BROTHER READE**(\$17/\$20)

TH 12/10
BRENDAN BENSON
W/COREY CHISEL**(\$15)

FR 12/11**(\$10/\$12)
THE MOVEMENT
W/SHAWN FISHER

SA 12/12 SALUTE TO PETE ROCK, & DJ PREMIER FEATURING SKYZOO, TYLER WOODS, BIG REMO, KAZE & MANY MORE
AFTER PARTY FEATURING 9TH WONDER

SU 12/13 SWASO, STRANGER SPIRITS, ROBERT SLEDGE AND FLASHLIGHT ASSEMBLY**

MO 12/14 STREET DOGS W/ROGER MIRET AND THE DISASTERS, STIGMA**(\$12)

SA 12/15 TREKKY RECORDS PRESENTS: CHRISTMAS AT THE CRADLE 2009

W/TREKKY YULETIDE ORCHESTRA & MUCH MORE**(\$8/\$10)

SA 12/26
WINTER REGGAE JAM DUB ADDIS & CRUCIAL FIYA**(\$8/\$10)

SA 12/26**(\$20/\$25)
NEW YEARS EVE SHOW! BILLY PRICE BAND

SA 1/9/2010**(\$10/\$12)
ABBEY ROAD LIVE!

SU 1/10/2010 RJD2**(\$15/\$17)

FR 1/15/2010 THE OLD CEREMONY**(\$10)

SA 1/16/2010 WHO'S BAD?*

SU 1/17/2010 DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND**(\$15)

TU 2/2 AND WE 2/3/2010** CITIZEN COPE TWO SHOWS!

TU 2/9/2010 JONATHAN RICHMAN**(\$10/\$12)

TH 2/11/2010**(\$25)
BRANDI CARLILE
W/AMY RAY'S ROCK SHOW

FR 2/12/2010**(\$15)
JOHN BROWN'S BODY

MO 2/15/2010**(\$15)
TORTOISE
W/DISAPPEARS

TH 2/25/2010**(\$15)
STATE RADIO

SU 2/28/2010 NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL-STARS**(\$16/\$18)

TH 3/25/2010 THE XX**(\$14/\$16)

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Gala

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farm dinner

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News Briefs

No funds for Carrboro library plan

The Assembly of Governments meeting Monday night addressed the issue of library financing between Orange County, Chapel Hill and Carrboro, including whether Orange County should contribute more to the Chapel Hill Library.

About 40 percent of those who use the Chapel Hill Library do not live in Chapel Hill and do not pay taxes in Chapel Hill. Orange County hasn't increased the amount it contributes (currently \$249,333 a year) since 2001-02.

Also discussed Monday was Orange County's capital improvement plan which includes a Southwest Regional library, but does not say how the project would be funded.

The assembly asked that town and county officials prepare a report laying out a plan for the county to provide more assistance to Chapel Hill for operational expenses, but not capital expenses.

Affordable housing ordinance

The Town of Chapel Hill has started a public review process for a draft Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance to help address the need for more affordable housing in Chapel Hill.

A public information open house is scheduled for tonight (Thursday) from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Hargraves Center, 216 N. Roberson St. Repeating presentations will take place at 4:15, 5:30 and 7 p.m.

If enacted, developers would be required to make at least 15 percent of their dwelling units affordable to households with incomes between 65 and 80 percent of the area median income. The requirements would apply to new residential developments of five or more units.

A task force appointed by the town council developed ideas and worked with consultants to prepare the draft ordinance, posted online at townhall.townof-chapelhill.org/agendas/2009/09/28/7b/ and available by calling 968-2728.

Information session on traffic

The Town of Chapel Hill will hold an information session from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10 at the Chapel Hill Public Library to share and receive comments on the draft Transportation Impact Analysis Update for Carolina North.

The Carolina North development agreement required an update to the June 2009 Transportation Impact Analysis. This update includes new traffic data and more detailed bicycle and pedestrian analysis. A final draft of the update will be complete by Dec. 31. This information session is an opportunity for public input and comments on the current draft.

For more information, contact Mary Jane Nirdlinger, special projects coordinator for the Town of Chapel Hill, at 919-968-2739 or mnirdlinger@townofchapelhill.org

El Centro Latino closes its doors

BY KIRK ROSS
Staff Writer

CARRBORO — El Centro Latino, a 10-year-old organization aimed at assisting Latino immigrants, has closed its doors and will cease operations, its board of directors announced last week, citing lack of funding.

"For the past few years, El Centro Latino has been dealing with many challenges including reduced grant funds and individual donations, leadership and staff transitions, as well as the economic recession. All of these factors have made it difficult for El Centro Latino (ECL) to continue pursuing its mission," the statement reads in part (the full text is published on page 6).

The board met Wednesday to try to name a time and place for a community meeting planned for mid-January to help guide the organization as it regroups.

Board member Paula Gildner said that a drop in donations and grant funding made it impossible for operations to continue at its offices in the Daniels Building on Main Street in Carrboro.

"It's basic economics," she said. "We cut everything we could."

Gildner said several of the organization's programs will continue with the help of other local agencies. But losing other services, like El Centro's work-assistance program and an after-school program, which helps match employers and workers, will have a big impact.

Gildner said she believes the community will find a way to make sure the services don't end.

"I have complete faith that the community is going to come together," she said.

El Centro has struggled to maintain steady leadership over the years.

Ilana Dubester, the former head of Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County, who was brought in as an interim director, said closing down operations is serious but doesn't necessarily mean the services will disappear.

"This is a big loss, obviously," she said. "Part of that big loss is the connection between the immigrant population, and the Hispanic population in general, and the community at large."

Dubester said she and three staff members will work their last day next Thursday. Clients, she said, have expressed shock and dismay at the prospect of the closing.

The loss of a simple service such as helping people sort through their mail and determine what is junk and what's important will have a strong impact on some families.

"Where do immigrants go for basic questions?" she asked.

In the long run, she said, the closing presents an opportunity to either restructure the organization or perhaps create a new one. It also may be possible, she said, that more-established organizations in Durham and Chatham counties would be interested in partnering with Orange County to set up satellite operations.

Either way, she does not expect to see El Centro return in the same form.

"They'll have to learn from experience," she said. "It's an opportunity for a fresh start."

Aldermen discuss 2035 transit plan

BY BETH MECHUM
Staff Writer

Most of last week's Carrboro Board of Aldermen meeting was spent discussing the Chapel Hill and Carrboro 2035 Long Range Transit Plan.

The objectives behind the plan are an introduction of transit services that better serve the most populated bus routes and the enhancement of local bus service by eventually adding new bus routes for future needs.

Several speakers addressed light rail and local architect Giles Blunden spoke of the economic impact of the current transportation plan.

"A real alternative to buses and cars is going to be really important," Blunden said, referring to global warming.

After the comments, Mayor Mark Chilton responded by saying the discussion wasn't about the creation of light rail right now, but about figuring out Carrboro's transportation needs for the future.

Alderman Dan Coleman said that while he supported the idea of light rail in the future, he had a lot

of questions as to where the money for it would come from.

"This is a transit plan, it's not a stop-global-warming plan or a sustainability plan," Coleman said. He added that he did not sense that taxpayers are interested in paying for light rail.

The board officially received public comments and referred them to town staff for review. Alderman Randee Haven-O'Donnell proposed scheduling some time in the future to discuss the possibility of light rail.

Also at the meeting, the board heard comments about PACE Academy's proposed addition of elementary and secondary schools in the B-4 Zoning District. The board approved the draft ordinance.

In other action:

- a resolution supporting Buy Carrboro Week 2009 was passed;
- the board made the town's notice requirements concerning the land-use ordinance consistent with the general statutes;
- and a public hearing on a land-use ordinance text amendment modifying the income limit for affordable units was opened and continued to Feb. 23.

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN
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Community Briefs

Holiday parade

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Holiday Parade will be Saturday, Dec. 12, beginning at 10 a.m. Join your neighbors for music, dancing, community-sponsored floats, marching bands, scout troops and more.

Grinch reading on campus

The Bull's Head Bookshop's annual bilingual reading of the Dr. Seuss classic 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' will be on Wednesday, Dec. 9th at 4 p.m. It's free and open to the public.

Professor emeritus Tom Stumpf will read boomerily in English and the UNC Student Stores' own George Morgan will read soothingly in Latin.

Show up early to get a good seat; there have been large crowds in the past.

Breakfast with Santa

UNC Hospitals' residents will host the second annual Charity Breakfast Buffet with Santa. Proceeds from the breakfast buffet will be used to support the Ronald McDonald House, the SECU Family House, the N.C Food Bank and Toys for Tots.

The buffet is at Spice Street restaurant at University Mall Saturday, Dec. 12 from 8 to 11 a.m.

Square dance jam

Carrboro's Recreation and Parks' Jam Session Series presents Square Dance Jam on Friday, Dec. 4 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Carrboro Century Center.

necessary. Wear comfy shoes. Admission is \$3 per person. For more information, call Carrboro Recreation at 918-7364.

Blood drive

Dates and times for blood drives in December are: Walnut Grove United Methodist Church: Sunday, Dec 6 from noon to 4:30 p.m., 7215 Walnut Grove Church Road, Hillsborough

Cedar Ridge High School: Saturday, Dec 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 1125 New Grady Brown School Road

UNC Wellness Center: Tuesday, Dec 15 from 2 to 6:30 p.m., 100 Sprunt Street, Meadowmont

OWASA: Wednesday, Dec. 30 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 400 Jones Ferry Road

Free parking on Saturdays

Every Saturday in December, parking will be free at meters and municipal parking lots until 5 p.m. Normal parking fees will apply after 5 p.m. at the Wallace Deck, 150 E. Rosemary St., and the Rosemary/Columbia parking lot (formerly Lot 2), 100 E. Rosemary St.

Look for bags on the meters that say 'Happy Holidays - Free Parking 2 Hour Limit.'

For more information on parking in Chapel Hill, visit townofchapelhill.org/parking

Shuttle for Harvest Feast

Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) will provide a free shuttle to the seventh annual Harvest Feast, this Sunday at the Raleigh Convention Center.

Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) will provide a free shuttle to the seventh annual Harvest Feast, this Sunday at the Raleigh Convention Center. The shuttle will depart from the Friday Center Park and Ride on Friday Center Drive, off of Raleigh Road, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and from the Raleigh Convention Center at 2 and 4 p.m. to return to Chapel Hill.

For additional information on the shuttle, contact CHT at 969-4900 or email chtransit@townofchapelhill.org

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, DEC 3

American Beauty — Gallery Gala and Exhibit opening at ChathamArts Gallery, 115 Hillsboro St.. The gala will include a wine and chocolate tasting as well as an artist lecture.

New Moon Discussion — The Movie/Book Group meets to discuss New Moon and the bestselling novel it is based on by Stephenie Meyer.

SATURDAY, DEC 12

ELF Arts and Crafts Fair — ELF is an imaginative holiday arts and crafts festival in Carrboro. Selection of handmade soaps, knit goods, jewelry, pillows, silk screened clothing, ceramic vessels, holiday cards, imaginative magnets and lots of art.

Ongoing Cancer Support — Support groups for cancer patients and their families. comucopiahouse.org

Compassionate Friends — Free self-help support for all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Evergreen United Methodist Church.

Introduction to Buddhism — Classes offered Wednesday nights, 7:30-9pm in November at Piedmont KTC Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Center at 109 Jones Creek Place, Carrboro.

DivorceCare — Support group for those separated or divorced. Mondays, 7pm, Orange United Methodist Church.

Family to Family — A series of 12 weekly classes structured to help family members understand and support a family member suffering with mental illness.

Garden Tour — Free tour of the N.C. Botanical Garden display gardens. Saturdays, 10am, in front of the Totten Center at the Garden. 962-0522, ncbg.unc.edu

Jazz at the Mall — University Mall presents free jazz concerts every Sunday, 2-4pm

Job Search Meeting — A networking and support group for job hunters. Wednesdays, 9:30-11am, Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive. 942-4964

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New Moon Discussion — The Movie/Book Group meets to discuss New Moon and the bestselling novel it is based on by Stephenie Meyer.

SATURDAY, DEC 12

ELF Arts and Crafts Fair — ELF is an imaginative holiday arts and crafts festival in Carrboro. Selection of handmade soaps, knit goods, jewelry, pillows, silk screened clothing, ceramic vessels, holiday cards, imaginative magnets and lots of art.

Ongoing Cancer Support — Support groups for cancer patients and their families. comucopiahouse.org

Compassionate Friends — Free self-help support for all adults grieving the loss of a child or sibling. Third Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Evergreen United Methodist Church.

Introduction to Buddhism — Classes offered Wednesday nights, 7:30-9pm in November at Piedmont KTC Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Center at 109 Jones Creek Place, Carrboro.

DivorceCare — Support group for those separated or divorced. Mondays, 7pm, Orange United Methodist Church.

Family to Family — A series of 12 weekly classes structured to help family members understand and support a family member suffering with mental illness.

Garden Tour — Free tour of the N.C. Botanical Garden display gardens. Saturdays, 10am, in front of the Totten Center at the Garden. 962-0522, ncbg.unc.edu

Jazz at the Mall — University Mall presents free jazz concerts every Sunday, 2-4pm

Job Search Meeting — A networking and support group for job hunters. Wednesdays, 9:30-11am, Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive. 942-4964

Church, 1712 Willow Drive. 942-4964

Open-Mic Poetry — Tuesdays except first Tuesday, 7-9pm, Looking Glass Cafe & Boutique, 601 W. Main St. 636-5809

Walking Tour — The Preservation Society of Chapel Hill offers "Walk This Way," walking tours of Franklin Street every Sunday at 2 pm. \$5. 942-7818 or chpreservation@mindspring.com for more information.

Breastfeeding Cafe — An informal drop-in gathering of breastfeeding moms will be held every Monday from 1-2pm at the Red Hen. A La Leche representative will be there to provide information and answer questions, 201 Weaver St.

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

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

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

Volunteers RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program — Seeks volunteers at least 55 years of age and older who would like assistance in finding an opportunity that matches their interests. 968-2056, co.orange.nc.us/aging/RSVPindex.asp

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

Orange County Literacy — Seeks volunteers to help with adult literacy, basic math and English language tutoring, creative writing workshops at local homeless shelters and family literacy workshops. New tutor training workshops every month. Skills Development Center, 503 W. Franklin St. 933-2151

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SUPER CROSSWORD LOVES LABOR LOST ACROSS 1 Fowl family 6 Drag before a judge 12 Rock's partner 16 Barbecue leftover 19 Bar hop? 20 Tchaikovsky's "Onegin" 21 Butter sub 22 Hwy. 23 Column style 24 Start of a remark 27 Pressure meas. 28 Skinny 30 Hamburger holdie 31 Tinker Bell or Titania 32 Head for the hills 33 Malone's portraier 37 Strong guys 38 Part 2 of remark 42 Agricultural inventor 44 Rabbit relative 45 Pressed 47 Rock's Loggins & — setting 51 "Evita" villainous 57 Travel need 58 Street greeting 59 Sylvan setting 60 Run a meeting 62 Tremble 64 Fully grown 65 Revolutionary writer 66 Made a face 67 Juicy pear 69 Part 3 of remark 70 Sent to Sing Sing 71 January stoat 72 Military headgear 73 Comic 74 Rental agreement 75 Like some signals 76 — boom 77 Envelope code 80 Big — 81 Falafel holder 82 Method 84 Bit of wit 87 Narrow passage 91 Literary pseudonym 92 Some jeans & — 94 Part 4 of remark 98 Stage whisper 100 Summit 102 Big beginning 103 Circe's suitors 104 Alternative to nothing 105 Kirk's navigator 106 Sheriff snooze 109 End of remark 115 Sun-dried brick 117 Likable prez 118 Butte 119 Audrey Tautou role 120 Type of orange 121 Litter sound 122 Appear to be 123 Hole grain food? 124 Calm down DOWN 1 Radar presence 2 Bravo and Grande 3 Start of everything? 4 Sapporo sash 5 Compilant 6 Farm youngster 7 Car 8 "That's disgusting!" 9 Fire sign 10 Burmese statesman 11 Mrs. Al Bundy 12 Portly 13 Ken or Lena 14 Author Wallace 15 Leisure lovers 16 Comic Auerbach 17 No-nonsense 18 Actress Lamarr 23 Where Sopranos shouldn't sing? 26 They'll never hurt me! 29 Born 32 Liberate 33 Half a rock group 34 From — Z 35 Diarist Anais 36 Canonized 37 Mille 37 Pump part 38 Ultimate whale watcher 39 Author John Dickson — 40 Southern constellation 41 French psychologist 43 Gulf ruler 46 Martin and Stockwell 48 PR concern 49 Missing more than mittens 50 Imitated 52 Novelist Gormier 53 Armistice 54 Keep the pedal off the metal 56 Complete 60 Was concerned 61 Subtle taste 62 Marmalade fruit 63 Unlikely to allure 64 Benoit's buddies 65 Unadulterated 66 Frenzied 67 Inch along 68 Muscat native 69 Mavericks' state 70 Doyenne deity 71 Czech river 72 Got scammed 73 Onward 75 "La Boheme" heroine 76 Ill will 77 South African native 78 2001 Judi Dench film 79 — moss 81 Macadamize 83 — vu 85 Spark in the dark 86 Uses frequent flier miles 88 In addition 89 Carpet 90 Demolished dessert 93 Saudi salutation 95 Inspires a mile 96 — Aviv 97 Exotic pet 98 Cease the 99 Tendon 101 Thickness 103 Do laps 104 Chartres part 105 Vaudeville bit 106 Salmon snack 107 Assist a felon 108 Soccer superstar 110 Rubly or 111 Arch. tool 112 Med. insurer 113 Sundown, to Shelley 114 Actor Gulgager 116 Apply gently

CitizenCryptoquote By Martin Brody "Repugnant" FI'D OFVVFTAWI NBKAUP GPNB GN WKDN IPNDN ZHYSN YQNHFTYBD FBYZIIWND KSNHDNYD. FIFDPKHHFVXFBU IPYI IPNX DPKAWO TKQN ABONH VFHN YIYB YHGX ZYDN KB YQNHFTYBDKFW. - ZHYTR KZYQY, KBIPNVI. PKKO DPKKIFBUD

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle 1 4 9 3 9 8 6 4 7 3 1 8 6 2 5 9 6 3 7 2 8 4 5 9 1 7 DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★ ★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★ ★ HOO BOY!

PETS OF THE WEEK PAWS4EVER — Meet Tom Tom! He is a new 4 year old grey and white fella here at paws4ever. He is still nervous and adjusting to things here. Tom Tom and his friend Tiny were returned adoptions as a result of a divorce. Tiny is at our clinic right now with a cold, so now Tom Tom is very sad and misses his friend. Tiny will be back to keep him company as soon as he gets over his cold, and hopefully Tom Tom will cheer up a bit when he does. Tom Tom doesn't like being picked up, but is an affectionate guy. He will come over to you if you sit and talk to him. He does have a very loud motor, once he gets it reved up. So come on in and talk to our new friend Tom Tom and make him feel a little better. He would love to meet you! Please come by the shelter and take a look, at Paws4Ever; 6311 Nicks Road, Mebane, or call 304-2300. You can also go online at paws4ever.org



BIZARRE HOLIDAY SMALL TALK.
ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL BLANK

The Eater



Wish granted

Terry McClernon, aka The Food Fairy, was the recipient of a little magic herself courtesy of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation. The county announced this week that The Food Fairy was awarded the county's first small business loan under its new Chatham Loan Fund, which was set up to fund local entrepreneurs.

The county recently hosted a launch party at Chatham Mills for the McClernon's new cook along DVD, *Cook Once, Eat for Weeks*. Visit food-fairy.com for more details.

Local food lover's guide

A Southern Season is hosting a gala book launch and signing for Morton Neal's new book *Chapel Hill Food Lover's Guide with Carrboro and Hillsborough* on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Neal is a longtime food writer and the former owner and manager of La Residence.

Ten percent of store sales, including book sales, during the Gala will be donated to the Eastern N.C. Food Bank, Stop Hunger Now and Orange Congregations in Mission. A Southern Season, who plans stay open an additional three hours past their regular 6 p.m. Sunday closing, holds an exclusive on the book from Dec. 6-24.

The 84-page guide was illustrated by Chapel Hill artist Laura Frankstone and designed by Gwendolen Gray.

down, citing a lack of business. The barbecue spot was the most recent in a series of restaurants unable to make a go of it at that address.

Don't look for stability there anytime soon — demo work is due to start early next year on the old Performance building next door.

Please note that if you're missing a Cobb salad, you can find a nice one right down the block at Tyler's.

Raise a castle

Speaking of Tyler's, please note that even if you can't expect to wield supreme executive power just because some watery tart threw a sword at you, you can relive all your favorite lines from Monty Python's *The Holy Grail* while quaffing a castle-shaped mug of Black Sheep Brewery's Holy Grail Ale.

According to the label, the brew is "tempered over burning witches."

Grilled cheese alert

We have it on good authority that Jesse's makes a pretty nice grilled cheese. "Like the kind you'd make at home," was the description.

If only . . .

Late one recent evening, while traveling in Durham, North Carolina, The Eater experienced the graciously served and well-crafted work available at the Only Burger truck (motto: "The Only Burger You'll Ever Want"). The mobile grill truck, whose location is findable on Twitter at twitter.com/onlyburger, produces fine burgers and thin, crisp and hot fries. Would that the Durham Catering Company would consider a Chapel Hill-Carrboro franchise or that some local entrepreneur considers setting up a similar operation round here. . . .

FARMERS' MARKET

Sat: 7am-Noon • Wed: 3:30-6:30pm Thurs/So. Village: 3:30-6:30pm

What's at Market?

Check out what's at the Carrboro Year-Round Farmers' Market . . .
New Item this Week: creasy greens, totsoi, dill, cilantro, turnips, beets, beet greens, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet potatoes, broccoli, lettuce, chard, radishes, mustard greens, turnip greens, shiitake mushrooms, green tomatoes, sorrel, acorn squash, muscadine grapes, butternut squash, greenhouse tomatoes, beans, bell peppers, new potatoes, arugula, onions, wheat flour, garlic, salad mixes (spicy and non), collards, fresh herbs, kale, pecans, dried flowers, meats like goat, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, buffalo, and various specialty meats like liverwurst, bologna, hotdogs, etc, cow's and goat's milk cheeses, eggs, breads, doughnuts, tortes, pies, cakes, jams, and relishes.



Baked Turnip Casserole

Recipe Provided by Ben Horner

Ingredients:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Put a pot of water on to boil.
- Salt the water once it is brought to a gentle boil. You don't need to be precise, but add enough salt so that you can taste it in the water.
- Add the turnips and boil until tender.
- Drain the turnips and return them to the pot. You want to make sure they are drained completely so that you don't have any standing water. Once they are drained, begin to mash them.
 - Add the butter, milk, and salt. I adjust salt and milk to desired texture and taste.
 - Once mashed, pour into a casserole dish and top with bread crumbs and chopped pecans. *If desired, you can add cheddar cheese to the top or substitute it for the pecans.
 - Cover with tin foil and place in the oven for about 20 minutes.
 - Remove tin foil after about 20 minutes to brown the top.
 - Remove from the oven and serve.

Cliff's Meat Market

SIZZLIN' SAVINGS



Cut to Order Whole Fresh Chickens \$1.29/lb	BY THE PINT Fresh Oysters \$9.99/bottle	CERTIFIED ORGANIC Chicken \$2.29/lb
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Pauli Murray Award Nominations

The Orange County Human Relations Commission (HRC) is soliciting nominations for the 2009 Pauli Murray Human Relations Award. The HRC awards the Pauli Murray Human Relations Award in three categories: youth, adult, and business. This award honors individuals and businesses who have a significant history of promoting and fostering better human relations among the diverse residents of Orange County.

Nomination information also available at Orange County public libraries; and the Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough Town Halls and at <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/hrr/pmurray.asp>

Deadline date for submission of nominations is January 15, 2010.

Questions: (919) 960-3874

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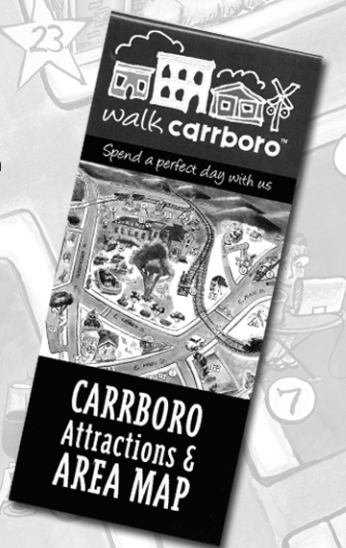
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- Carrboro Beverage Company
- Carrburitos
- Carr Mill Mall
- Clay Centre Gallery
- DSI Comedy
- Glasshalfull
- Jesse Kalisher Gallery
- Miel Bon Bons
- Milltown
- NC Crafts Gallery
- Nested
- Open Eye Café
- Panzanella
- Roulette Vintage
- Southern Rail
- Townsend Bertram & Co.
- Tyler's Restaurant & Taproom
- Weaver Street Market

Local, hand-crafted pottery, vintage and locally made clothing, local hand-made chocolates, North Carolina handicrafts, locally roasted and brewed coffee, outdoor adventure outfitting, local and international craft beer, gift certificates to great restaurants and entertainment, original art, unique and creative gifts, fine wines from around the world, and much, much more.

Pick up your free walking map and guide to our town at any of these stores, galleries and restaurants.



walkcarrboro.com



FOR THE RECORD

Midnight on Millhouse Road

Next Monday, the board of county commissioners are due to make a decision on the location of a solid-waste transfer station, a place where the bulk of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough and Orange County's garbage will be collected and reloaded onto semi-trucks for shipment to parts as yet unknown.

To those on the inside of the decision, the choice is pretty clear — either a spot off N.C. 54 near Orange Grove Road or one just a half-mile from the current landfill and just a stone's throw from an old construction landfill.

With the towns' tight budgets and concerns about the distance and suitability of the N.C. 54 site in mind, several members of the board of commissioners appear inclined toward the Millhouse site.

“... to us, and, we suspect, to at least some of those on the board of commissioners, the reason to reject the Millhouse site is straightforward: Because it's not right.”

We believe that not only is the decision itself a false choice, but that to choose the Millhouse Road site would make a mockery of public process in Orange County.

The two sites on the table were chosen through vastly different processes. The N.C. 54 site was picked after an extensive and expensive review using a wide range of criteria, including a minimum acreage of 25 acres, proximity to major roads, environmental concerns and the impact on the surrounding community. Millhouse came in over the transom.

Promised as part of a park, it sits just down the road from an area of the county landfill originally earmarked for the transfer station. That plan was rejected over environmental-justice concerns. Why the new site, the access to which would use the same roads, should be any different doesn't make sense.

To those on the outside watching this decision, choosing Millhouse will look very different. At the 11th hour, the county changed the criteria and picked a site in the same lower-income historic black neighborhood it wanted in the first place, but that was eliminated from consideration by the criteria the board had approved. The same neighborhood that for years has been chartered out of basic services despite repeated committees and task forces recommending some accommodation, some nod, that we owe something for three decades of noise and trucks and dust and stench and buzzards.

The hypocrisy of the state's proud liberal bastion making such a move won't be lost on people.

While the decision is in the county's hands, the towns bear a responsibility for what happens.

Carrboro, to its credit, passed a resolution against the Millhouse site at its meeting Tuesday night. But save a lone council resolution opposing a Millhouse Road site, Chapel Hill has been strangely silent over the controversy unfolding right on its border. Contrast that with the Town of Hillsborough, which last year threatened to quickly annex the old weigh station on I-85 when it became a prospect.

This newspaper has published tens of thousands of words on the subject, and to us and, we suspect, to at least some of those on the board of commissioners, the reason to reject the Millhouse site is straightforward: Because it's not right.

Should the county proceed along that course, it will invite resentment from within and ridicule and scorn from without.



Public anxiety and frustration

CHRIS FITZSIMON

At first glance, headlines about voters believing politicians are corrupt are not surprising considering the recent coverage of the state and federal investigations of former Gov. Mike Easley and the daily venom about government from Rush Limbaugh and his fellow political shock jocks on the right.

New surveys from Public Policy Polling (PPP) and the Elon University Poll do find significant distrust of political leaders. The PPP poll finds that a plurality of North Carolinians believe both Democrats and Republicans are corrupt and that political corruption has increased in the last 25 years.

The Elon Poll is even more disturbing, with findings that 73 percent of people in the state believe corruption is common among elected officials and 65 percent say that people in elected office are more concerned with their own interests than the public interest.

The findings of both surveys prompted the usual reaction from establishment political observers, lamenting the state of the political world, while anti-government zealots were rubbing their hands together planning to use the results in their crusades.

But as always with polls, the broader context and some of the findings that didn't make the headlines are worth considering. The Elon poll finds that roughly 60 percent of North Carolinians approve of the job their individual legislators are doing, so they must not think everybody is corrupt.

Just over 70 percent of those surveyed in the Elon Poll say they trust the government in Raleigh to do what is in the public interest some or all of the time, while just 24 percent trust state government to do what's right none or very little of the time.

Neither poll defines corruption, but it's a safe bet that people associate it with the kind of criminal behavior that helped send former House Speaker Jim Black to federal prison, taking cash in paper bags to pay another legislator for a vote.

But 87 percent of those surveyed in the Elon Poll say that campaign contributions influence elected officials at least some and 55 percent say the money influences them a lot.

Then there is the context. Most people don't trust much in these days of economic anxiety and hardship. A recent Gallup Poll found that less than half of Americans have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in the media to report the news fairly and accurately.

A survey last year by Gallup found that almost 70 percent of the people want corporations to have less influence and a Pew survey earlier this year found a majority of Americans do not believe corporations strike a fair balance between making money and serving the public interest.

People are angry and afraid and aren't sure anybody or any institution is looking out for their best interests. Throw in stories of governors involved in questionable land deals or rushing off to Argentina, and members of Congress hiding bribe money in a freezer, and of course people are skeptical and frustrated.

They will be until they are not as worried about their jobs, if they have one, or how to afford their mortgage payments next month.

But unrest and anxiety are not the same as abandoning support for the government they elect. They still have faith in the individual men and women who represent them in Raleigh and Washington.

Let's ferret out the corruption and get rid of the few dishonest politicians. Change the campaign-finance system that makes fair elections and honest governing more difficult. And don't let the loud anti-government minority stand in the way of public solutions and investments that address the frustration of many families.

And keep the poll numbers in context.

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

“Let's ferret out the corruption and get rid of the few dishonest politicians. Change the campaign-finance system that makes fair elections and honest governing more difficult. And don't let the loud anti-government minority stand in the way of public solutions and investments that address the frustration of many families.”

That's another definition of corruption, a legal kind, with lawmakers pleasing the people who give them big contributions or hold fundraisers at their country clubs.

That's not only legal in the current system of financing campaigns, it is common practice, the way the system works. But the anti-government zealots virulently oppose using public money for campaigns instead of the private money that comes with all the strings attached.

They complain every day that government is corrupt, but resist any effort to change the system of paying for campaigns that the public realizes is a stacked deck, legal corruption that increases cynicism about elected officials. The crowd on the right likes it that way. They want people to distrust the government they are trying to dismantle.

Troubling moves by Blue Cross Blue Shield

[Editor's note: Following is a letter sent last week signed by 20 state legislators to Attorney General Roy Cooper and Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin calling into question recent mailings and robo-calls by Chapel Hill-based Blue Cross Blue Shield against including a public option in federal health care reform legislation.]

Dear Attorney General Cooper and Commissioner Goodwin:

In an apparent effort to maintain its dominance and control of the state health care market, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina has spent thousands of dollars paid by policy holders asking them to mail a pre-printed postcard to Senator Kay Hagan urging her to oppose health care reform and has engaged in automatic robo-calls urging policy holders to act on the mailings. This is most troubling to us as lawmakers and North Carolinians. We have heard from a number of constituents who are equally troubled. We have the following specific concerns.

We are concerned that Blue Cross

Blue Shield of North Carolina has violated the intent of the Do Not Call Registry by using the exemption requiring a prior business relationship to engage in political advocacy. These robo-calls had nothing to do with providing care to patients, but were instead used to advocate a specific political stance. While we are strongly committed to the first amendment, we do not believe that policy holders intended for their relationship with Blue Cross to be used in this manner. We also believe Blue Cross Blue Shield has potentially broken the automatic dialing statute by not providing the contact information of the unsolicited caller in this recorded message. This lack of contact information appears to be in violation of federal guidelines surrounding automated calls as well.

Further, given Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina's status as a not-for-profit with a share of 96.8% in our individual insurance market built on over 60 years of preferred tax exemptions, we are concerned as a matter of public policy and ethical business practices that they have inappropriately engaged in political ad-

vocacy. As a corporation that claims to deliver innovative health care products and services to its members, Blue Cross Blue Shield appears to be engaging in a blatant political campaign utilizing the premiums paid by their customers. Even if there is no apparent violation of existing statutes, we think this is bad public policy that deserves further scrutiny.

We would very much appreciate your respective offices investigating these issues for any potential violation of state laws or regulations.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Respectfully,

Sen. Stan Bingham, Sen. Katie Dorsett, Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, Rep. Alma Adams, Rep. Larry Bell, Rep. Angela Bryant, Rep. Susan Fisher, Rep. Rick Glazier, Rep. Pricey Harrison, Rep. Verla Insko, Rep. Marvin Lucas, Rep. Paul Luebke, Rep. Marian McLawhorn, Rep. Grier Martin, Rep. Garland Pierce, Rep. Ray Rapp, Rep. Deborah Ross, Rep. Alice Underhill, Rep. Edith Warren, Rep. Larry Womble

On the closing of El Centro Latino

[Editor's note: The following is an open letter from the board of El Centro Latino on the recent decision to shut down its facility in Carrboro.]

We regret to inform you that El Centro Latino has closed.

For the past few years, El Centro Latino has been dealing with many challenges including reduced grant funds and individual donations, leadership and staff transitions, as well as the economic recession. All of these factors have made it difficult for El Centro Latino (ECL) to continue pursuing its mission.

“To the entire Orange County community, please accept our sincere gratitude.”

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, the Board of Directors faced the tough reality that ECL does not have sufficient funds to continue operating at its current capacity. It is with great regret and sadness that the Board wishes to inform the entire community that ECL closed its doors to the public on Wednesday, Nov. 25.

The Board is not dissolving the organization and will host a community-wide meeting in January to discuss in more detail the plans for the organization and how to best meet the needs of the Latino community of Orange County. Details about the meeting will be sent out at a later date.

Board members wish to thank all of the staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment. ECL is proud to have helped improve the lives of thousands of Latino immigrants in Orange County since 1999 through programs such as individualized employment assistance, English as a Second Language classes, after-school enrichment, cultural events and more. We are also grateful for all the support we received from our volunteers, community members, other organizations, churches, local government, businesses, foundations and donors.

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank Ilana Dubester, Interim Executive Director, for her work to structure and organize El Centro Latino in the last six months. We are fortunate to have had her help during this transition.

To the entire Orange County community, please accept our sincere gratitude for your support and your understanding. If you would like additional information about this notice or the meeting in January, please email eclcarrboro@gmail.com

Respectfully,
The Board of Directors of El Centro Latino

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. We will publish one letter per author per month. Lengthy letters written in longhand will mysteriously become lost. Emailed letters are preferred. That said, send your letters to:

Letters to the editor
Box 248 Carrboro, North Carolina 27510

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LETTERS

An open letter to the Orange County Commissioners

We the members of a shared ministry of two churches in Chapel Hill write to express our mutual deep concern about the reported plan to place a new waste transfer station at a ten-acre county owned site on Millhouse Road, very close to the current landfill.

We are concerned that the traffic of trucks to the transfer station site will adversely affect the residents of the neighborhood.

We are concerned that this site may not have been through the kind of comprehensive EPA-recommended evaluation or screening that was accorded other candidate sites.

We have heard that previously considered sites were all 25 acres or larger, in keeping with EPA recommended guidelines, and wonder why a smaller site is now considered adequate.

We are concerned that unlike the other sites considered, this one was proposed very recently, and that plans may be underway to move quickly. And so we fear that the voice of residents in the Rogers Road-Eubanks-Millhouse neighborhood may not be accorded the

same critical weight or fair period of time to respond as has been granted the residents of other Orange County communities that have opposed such a facility in their neighborhoods.

A simple measure of justice is equitable process. Equitable hearings and equitable treatment of persons and communities, rich and poor and middle class alike, and of persons of all races and heritages: these are core values shared both by religious faith and by civil standards of justice.

So we feel obligated in conscience to ask you as our Commissioners, before finalizing any decisions about a location for this proposed waste transfer station to examine closely whether the process employed in consideration of the Rogers Road Eubanks-Millhouse neighborhood site holds the same high regard for the safety, quality of life and environmental health as has been afforded other more well-to-do communities. We stand ready to meet with you, individually as Commissioners or together, to discuss our concerns. But more importantly we urge you to take the time to meet and listen closely to the neighbors immediately affected by these plans before proceeding any further. It is our belief that their concerns have not yet been clearly heard.

RESPECTFULLY, Bishop L. Gene Hatley, Barbee's Chapel Harvest Word Ministries, Peter J. B. Carman, Minister, Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church

MILLHOUSE FROM PAGE 1

One of those property owners, Cornelius Kirschner, said he had believed there was a statutory limit on the restrictions. The deed for one property, belonging to the Sluder family, does in fact indicate that the restrictions were good for only 29 years, but the others include no such expiration.

"This is good," Kirschner said. "I'm pleased with this development."

"Our belief is that these restrictive covenants are active, enforceable and binding," Dorosin said, "and that the neighbors who bought their properties subject to the same restrictions have the authority" to challenge the use of the Paydarfar tract for industrial use.

"We believe the commissioners should take this into account going forward," Dorosin said.

"It looks to me as though people have a right to enforce these restrictions that the property only be used for residential," said Alfred Brophy, a UNC professor of law who specializes in property issues. They appear valid and enforceable.

"All that's required is one person to come forward."

Dorosin said he feels the county is "rushing forward with the site without any adequate consideration, deliberately ignoring the clear intent and vision of the Blackwoods and all of the property owners who bought land throughout the area, and is creating an industrial zone in a rural residential community."

"The Blackwoods dream was to have a rural development out here," Kirschner said.

During the hour allotted for public comment at the last commissioners' meeting, on Nov. 17, county residents spoke in opposition to placing the facility on the Millhouse Road tract, and on Tuesday night the Carrboro Board of Aldermen passed a unanimous resolution in support of the Rogers-Eubanks community.

Meanwhile, Rogers-Eubanks organizer Robert Campbell traveled to the White House on Nov. 20th, where he spoke with Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson about his community's ongoing public-health and environmental-justice concerns.

"Our belief is that these restrictive covenants are active, enforceable and binding."

— MARK DOROSIN



OBITUARIES

Patricia Newton Staley

Mrs. Patricia Ellen Newton Staley, 55, of Chapel Hill, N.C. died Friday, Nov. 27, 2009 at Chapel Hill Rehabilitation Center.

Mrs. Staley was a native of Vance County but was raised in Chapel Hill. She was the daughter of the late Van Lewis Newton and LaRue Allen Hardee. Patricia was an administrative secretary for the University of North Carolina and was a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. She also loved to make stained glass items as a hobby.

Surviving are her mother and stepfather, LaRue A. and Jake Hardee, of Chapel Hill; two brothers, Tommy Newton of Winston-Salem, N.C., and Steve Hardee of Chapel Hill; one sister, Cindy Merritt, and her husband, Wesley, of Hillsborough; and two nephews, Spencer and Connor Merritt. Also her beloved dogs, Springer and Harley.

Shirley Holden DeDominicis

Shirley Jane (Holden) DeDominicis, aged 79, who resided at 100 Gattis St., Chapel Hill, N.C., died on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009 at UNC Hospitals.

Shirley was born on May 26, 1930 in Auburn, N.Y., the daughter of the late John Joseph Holden and Jane Agnes Mullally. She married Joseph C. DeDominicis Sr. on Sept. 13, 1952. Shirley lived in Syracuse and Hudson N.Y. and most recently resided in Chapel Hill, where she became a true Tar Heel fan and was involved with St. Thomas More Catholic Church. She also was an avid gardener, cook and baker, and her greatest joy in life was family and her six grandchildren.

She is survived by sons, Paul Joseph DeDominicis and Joseph Charles DeDominicis Jr.; her daughter, Mary Jane Krafte; one brother, John Holden; and grandchildren, Cassandra and Victoria DeDominicis; Corey, Katie, and Grace Krafte; and Gage DeDominicis.

2010 Tahiti Cruise. Join local group leader Cliff Larsen on an exotic cruise to Tahiti, leaving October 16, 2010. Book before December 15, 2009 and reserve your cabin for only \$100. Price includes airfare and much more. For more information, contact Cliff Larsen at 919-929-9436.

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Win Tickets To the Carolina Ballet's 2009 performance of The Nutcracker December 18-27 at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Courtesy of The Carrboro Citizen. To enter email: contest@carrborocitizen.com. Winner will be chosen by random drawing on Wednesday, December 9 and will receive a voucher good for 2 back orchestra tickets to any performance (subject to availability). Complete list of performances & times at www.carolinaballet.com

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TUE 12/8 — Chili & Cheez-It® Scrabble Junior; Chicken Fajitas w/Salsa & Sour Cream; **"Fun on the Run"**; Vegetable Rice; Fresh NC Grown; Steamed Broccoli; Chilled Peaches

WED 12/9 — Chicken Patty Sandwich; Baked Potato w/Meat & Cheese; Traditional Mixed Vegetables; Chilled Pineapple Tidbits; Chocolate Pudding

THU 12/10 — Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Sloppy Joe on a Bun; Garden Salad Green Beans; Chilled Applesauce

IMPROV FROM PAGE 1

In addition to improv groups based at individual high schools, teenage comedy has also blossomed at — where else? — DSI.

FitzSimons, resident instructor and theater manager at DSI, coaches Giuseppe, a DSI-based high school improv team. Giuseppe is comprised of 14 students from local high schools, as well as one home-schooled student.

The goal of the team, according to Ward, is to "produce a professional improv group that just happens to be comprised of high school students."

Whether performing with Giuseppe or with a troupe based at a high school, professionalism is a universal goal. DSI's proximity helps to achieve this aim, as the

theater serves as the central bee-hive for all these groups, providing a stage for high school improvisers.

"The resources our local high school students have at DSI are incredible," Ward said. "You have the unique opportunity to intern, study and work with a professional comedy theater."

More important than improv's impact on the town is its impact on the students. In addition to performance experience, improv teaches communication skills and creative problem solving.

FitzSimons likened improv to the skill of having a conversation.

"It opens up new ways of thinking about things," he said. "It makes people listen to you, and it makes you listen to them."

Ward's assessment of improv's benefits reads like a shopping list of favorable results.

"Self-confidence, strategy, listening skills, empathy — all things that might help make your personal relationships better," he said. "It gives a specific demographic of student something to be proud of."

East sophomore Max Huffman seconded Ward's sentiment.

"What we're doing is not just a club, but it's teaching communication skills and preparing people to be better-communicating, funnier people in adult life," Huffman said.

Huffman said his comedic experience taught him how to connect with others.

"Before I started doing improv, I was an awkward kid who talked too much," he said. "Now I'm an awkward kid who gets onstage and talks too much. People like you better if you're onstage and talking as opposed to just talking."

Huffman is a second-year member of Giuseppe and a first-year member of East's improv troupe, Randomax.

"Giuseppe is great because we're right there in DSI, we're in the epicenter learning directly from DSI professionals," he said. "Randomax is great in a totally different way, because it's all your peers and you're learning from each other. It's a totally different learning experience."

East junior and second-year Randomax member Emma Lo described improv as an "outlet."

"[Improv] has definitely broadened my sense of humor and made me more outgoing and interesting in conversations," she said. "It has also taught me about supporting other people in all aspects of life."

High school comedy is a source of pride to more than just the players onstage. Improv captures

Carrboro's spirit of inventiveness, originality and bold initiation; the fact that these are high school students performing further reflects our area's cultural vitality.

An oft-ignored mine of captivating creativity and comedic cultivation, high school improv merits more support than it receives. An integral part of our town's history, high school improv has far-reaching effects as Carrboro's improv reputation continues to grow. Even more important are the applicable life skills that improv teaches.

I humbly entreat you to support teenage comedians by seeing a high school improv show. We're not all Seinfelds, but we take "conversation" to hilarious heights.

Charlie Tyson is the director of Randomax Improv at East Chapel Hill High School.

School Briefs

Board of Education meeting Thursday

There will be a Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education meeting Dec. 3 in Chapel Hill Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. where the newly appointed board members will be sworn in. There will also be an election of a new chair and vice chair.

On the agenda are new course proposals for 2010-11 and committee assignments for the new board.

ECHHS holiday concerts

The East Chapel Hill High School choral department will present its annual Winter Concert this Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the main stage auditorium. As a gesture of good spirit in the holiday season, and in the midst of the national economic

crisis, the choral department will not be charging admission to this concert. (Donations are welcome, but not necessary.)

The concert will feature both the four curricular choral ensembles (East Ensemble, Treble Ensemble, East Men and Concert Choir) and the three a cappella extra-curricular ensembles (Alley Cats, Chiefs of Staff and a newly formed mixed a cappella group).

The ECHHS band concert is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. This concert will feature the concert and symphonic bands performing lighter/pops music.

The orchestra concert will round out the schedule on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. This concert will feature both the string orchestra and the chamber symphony for a night of lighter/pops music.

Students want fruit kiosks

Students at East Chapel Hill will host a telethon on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. to raise funds to build fresh fruit kiosks at each of the three high schools in the CHCCS district. The idea is for a fresh fruit stand to be available at the end of the school day so kids don't go home hungry, and can concentrate on their homework. No funds from CHCCS will be allocated. For information on how to support this project, call 593-1093 or email echhsfreshfruit-program@yahoo.com. Contributions are tax deductible.

CHS holiday concert

The Carrboro High School orchestra and choirs will present a "Holiday Czech Mix Concert and Silent Auction" at

the school on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Proceeds from the auction will help fund the orchestra's spring trip to the Czech Republic, where they will perform at several locations. Items up for bid include a one-week stay at a three-bedroom, three-bath condo in Wild Dunes, S.C.; UNC men's basketball tickets; Carolina Hurricanes tickets; a golf outing for four; jewelry; and more. You may view items online at picasaweb.google.com/CHS.Orchestra.Auction. Doors open at 6 p.m., with music starting at 7:30. A \$5 donation is requested at the door.

Summer program seeking instructors

The 2010 Summer Youth Enrichment (SYE) Program is seeking instructors. The program offers a variety of enrichment courses in CHCCS

schools for students of all grade levels. Community Schools is accepting applications from CHCCS staff members (certification is not required) and other qualified people in the community.

SYE courses in the past have included arts, crafts, drama, creative writing, cooking, technology, science, music and sports. Courses run for one-week or two-week sessions from 9 a.m. to noon or from 1 to 4 p.m. on weekdays. There have been requests for more courses for rising first- through third-graders and for science, music and writing courses for all grade levels.

To submit a course proposal, contact Elizabeth Ironside in the Community Schools Office at eironside@chccs.k12.nc.us or at 967-8211, ext. 28243. Proposals are due by Monday, Dec. 14.

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The Hawbridge School announces the launch of its microenterprise **Hawbridge Designs** with an art exhibit and sale of student-designed products during the Saxapahaw Holiday Open House Celebration Saturday, December 12, 1-6 PM.

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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

"Garish purple" beautyberry still showing off in Carol Woods woodland garden.

FLORA

FROM PAGE 1

Sadly, English gardeners today must rely on the smaller-berried oriental calliycarpas, which, in my perspective, pale in contrast to our coastal North Carolina native.

Those "garish purple" berries are still holding on as we head into December; I think because we have not yet had serious killing frosts. There is a particularly spectacular planting of them over in the woodland gardens just west of building five

at the Carol Woods Retirement Community.

The friendship established across the Atlantic between Collinson and Bartram was steadfastly affectionate, while at times testy, as their numerous correspondences attest. Collinson came to depend on Bartram as the most reliable source for cuttings and seeds of American plants and Bartram depended upon Collinson for financing plant explorations and providing botanical/horticultural texts not otherwise available to him.

Collinson was the center of many such collaborative friendships. Stories of worldwide plant adventures, including the travels of Captain Cook, and the subsequent successes and failures of English gardeners with new plants are enriching for wildflower enthusiasts and gardeners alike.

By mid-18th century, plants were eagerly exchanged back and forth across the Atlantic. And, early on, enthusiasm for growing exotic foreign plants was tempered a little by concern for potential dangers. When yellow toadflax, *Linaria vulgaris*, a much-loved flower in Britain, invaded the landscape like a weed, Bartram was worried about the havoc. So today, as we are aware of the havoc of plants like Norway maple and paper mulberry, gifts to Bartram from his English patrons, we also are appreciative of many plants shared by early gardeners that do remain well behaved within our garden gates.



The Love Masters, 1984

Twenty-five years have passed since the Love Masters, a local do-wop quartet, were wowing crowds, first at The Cave, and then at other venues. The tight-harmony a cappella group was at Clarence's (the present-day Trilusa La Trattoria at 401 W. Franklin St.) when I chanced upon them for this photograph. Sans band, these guys are seen here crooning through The Drifters' "Under the Boardwalk," (left to right) Earl Bynum, Maurice Tucker, Tyrone Hunter and Bernard Atwater. Looking at this photo, you can almost hear them singing:

"Under the board walk / Out of the sun / Under the board walk
We'll be having some fun / Under the board walk / People walking above
Under the board walk / We'll be falling in love"

I always wondered whatever happened to the Love Masters. They sure had their mojo working.

A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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