



FRIDAY Mostly Cloudy 43/31
SATURDAY 40% chance of precip 38/31
SUNDAY Partly Cloudy 38/28

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

A closer look reveals beauty in a wild aster in winter phase.

FLORA BY KEN MOORE

Nature's in charge

Last week a Citizen reader asked how I found anything to feature during winter. I responded that nature is so rich that I always had one or more subjects lined up, even in the winter.

That was my intent until the next day, when by the back door my eyes were captured by little white stars along burgundy limbs. Taking a closer look at a native aster in a pot destined, eventually, to go into the ground, I marveled at the coloration of remaining leaves highlighting star-like bases from which seeds had already taken flight.

At that moment, stopped in my tracks, I realized that the sparkleberry would have to wait; nature had stepped in to redirect my focus on that little aster.

However far ahead I plan, I am not really in charge of selecting what I will feature each week. Many times I am deflected from my intended focus to a more compelling one because of something that captures my eye.

I have moved that potted aster closer to my door for easier viewing each time I pass. That wildflower, in its so-called dormant phase, is now providing me as much pleasure with its bright star-shaped seed receptacles on stems strewn with burgundy colored leaves as it did last fall with its flurry of tiny purplish flowers perched on green leafy stems.

SEE FLORA PAGE 10

INSIDE

Margot Lester says 'Keep it local'

See Business page 5

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Bell appointed to Chapel Hill council

BY KIRK ROSS Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Northside resident Donna Bell was appointed to the Chapel Hill Town Council Monday night, ending months of speculation and debate over how best to fill a vacancy created by Bill Strom's abrupt resignation in August.

Bell, a member of the town's planning board, was chosen on a 6-2 vote at a special council meeting at Town Hall. Matt Pohlman, the fifth-place finisher in this fall's race for four seats on the town council, won the votes of council member Matt Czajkowski and newly elected council member Gene Pease.



Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt was joined by council members Laurin Easthom, Sally Green, Ed Harrison, Penny Rich and Jim Ward in supporting Bell.

Several council members said they thought Bell, who is African-American, would fulfill an important role in representing her neighborhood and the town's minority population. Jim Merritt, the council's only African-American, did not win election this fall to the seat he was appointed to following the death of council member Bill Thorpe in September 2008.

In an interview Tuesday evening, Bell said the decision and her obligations are sinking in.

"I feel both honored and nervous," she said. "I know it was a difficult decision for folks to make."

Bell said she was a little concerned that since the town saw such a divide during the recent campaign, some might be quick to judge how she will feel about an issue.

"I'm very slow to take sides," she said. "I'm usually the person asking questions."

Maintaining the town's quality of life, especially downtown as it grows, will be a focus, she said, adding that she expects to fill the role of "clarifier" in discussions on growth involving Northside and other downtown residential areas.

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 3

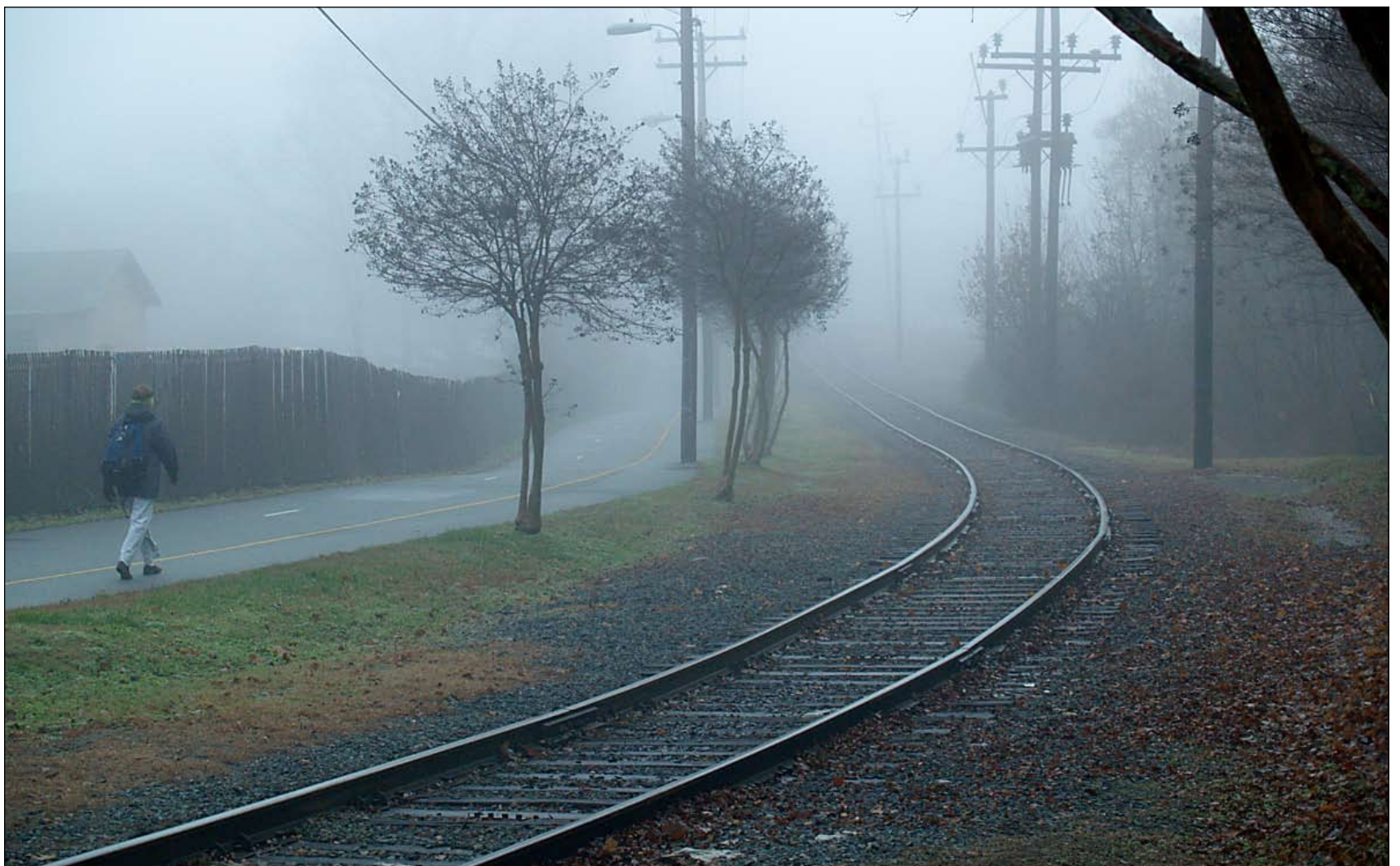


PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

With classes over, Monday morning was almost as quiet as it was foggy — even along the Elizabeth Cotten bike path.

Advocates, legislators urge DHHS to slow down

BY TAYLOR SISK Staff Writer

BREAKDOWN A series on Mental Health Care in NC

This story is a follow-up to a series about mental health care in North Carolina. To read the previous stories in this series, go to carrborocitizen.com/main/breakdown/

"It's just very scary right now," said Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, Orange County's representative in the state Senate, of the latest developments in the state's mental health care morass.

Specifically, Kinnaird is referring to a proposed new mental health care provider designation called critical access behavioral health agencies, or CABHA, scheduled to take effect Jan. 1. Providers who fail to comply with the standards of the new designa-

tion by July 10 of next year will lose Medicaid dollars for a number of essential services, including case management.

Kinnaird is not alone in her concern.

Mental health care advocates from across the state are expressing their displeasure with both the speed and the manner in which this new framework for mental health care services has been introduced. Consumer advocates contend that they have once again been left out of the discussion of how to move forward with the provisioning of mental health care services in North Carolina.

Tough year

What most all mental health care advocates in the state agree on is that change must come.

At the Mental Health Association in Orange County's annual meeting, held last Saturday at Orange United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, Judy Truitt, director of the OPC Area Program, said, "There's absolutely no question that this is has been an extraordinarily difficult year and that there are many more to come."

SEE DHHS PAGE 7

Crafting new green traditions

BY BETH MECHUM Staff Writer

If there's ever a time for tradition, a bat mitzvah is it.

There are just certain things, whether you are reform or conservative, kosher or non-kosher, a regular synagogue attendee or a High Holidays-appearance type of Jew, that all kids turning 13 must do in order to become bar or bat mitzvahed.

This includes hours of learning a Haftorah (birthday Torah portion), shopping for a new outfit and generally getting excited and nervous for the big day.

Sadie Rapp did all those things, but she decided to buck much of the tradition surrounding her coming-of-age ceremony for a more environmentally friendly event.

Gone are the hundreds of intricate invitations with layers of cardstock and envelopes. Gone are the flowers from big corporations hundreds of

miles away. And partially gone is the stressing over a high expense for just one night, albeit an important night.

"I decided that I would do a green bat mitzvah because this past year I've been to lots and lots of my friend's bar and bat mitzvahs and their parties, and it's just kind of made me sad to see how much stuff they waste or could be more green," Sadie said.

Sadie's environmental spirit first came during her time at Lerner Jewish Day School in Durham, where she learned about global awareness in her fifth-grade class. She said she just didn't like to see things go to waste, so she'd do her part to limit it.

"We tend to be a little alternative, so nobody was too surprised," Sadie's mother Bryna Rapp said. "The challenge was to still make everything look nice."

The preparations for a green bat mitzvah started with an evite (electronic invitation).

SEE GREEN PAGE 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RAPP FAMILY

Sadie Rapp displays her candle holder made out of an old tin can.

MUSIC CALENDAR



PNEUROTICS
Local 506
Saturday, December 19

THURSDAY DEC 17

Blue Bayou: Half Baked Beans, Whiskey Trail Outlaws. 9pm. Free
The Cave: LATE: Stu Halloween and Taz Cole, Morgan Mcpherson
General Store Cafe: Tony Galani Band. 7-9pm
Local 506: Jonas Sees In Color, Gossip Grows On Trees, En Serenade 8:30pm. \$7
Nightlight: Tickle Feather, Veelee, My Empty Phantom, Mike Dillon. 9:30pm. \$7

FRIDAY DEC 18

Blue Bayou: Will McFarlane Band. 9:30pm
The Cave: EARLY: Carrbros LATE: Kenny Roby and Scott McCall, Tim Stambaugh Band
General Store Cafe: Left on Franklin. 8-10:30pm
Harry's Market: Tad Dreis. 7-9pm
Nightlight: Americans in France, Impossible Arms, Drunk Tigers. 10pm. \$5

SATURDAY DEC 19

Blue Bayou: Jo Gore and The Alternative, Crossover Blues Band. 9:30pm
The Cave: EARLY: Pagan Hellcats LATE: 6th Annual Evil Weiner X-Mas Show



TAZ
The Cave
Thursday, December 17

General Store Cafe: Hindugrass. 8-10:30pm

Local 506: The Whiskey Smugglers, The Pneurotics, Gambling The Muse. 10pm. \$6

Nightlight: Ghost to Falco, Inspector 22. 10pm

Open Eye Cafe: Sawyer-Goldberg Ensemble. 8pm

SUNDAY DEC 20

Milltown: Reid Johnson, Kirk Ross, Clarke Blomquist, Todd Emmert. 7-9pm. Free

MONDAY DEC 21

The Cave: LATE: The Astronomers, Where The Buffalo Roamed,

Doombunny. \$5

TUESDAY DEC 22

The Cave: Jim Watson's 22nd Annual Christmas Show. 8pm. \$5

Local 506: Wylie Hunter, Josh Drye Consortium. 9pm

SATURDAY DEC 26

Cats Cradle: dub Addis, Crucial Fiya. 9:30pm. \$8/10

The Cave: EARLY: Jodie Manross. \$5 LATE: Regina Hexaphone, Diane Kletter and Friends

General Store Cafe: Marie Vanderbeck Quartet. 8-10pm

Open Eye Cafe: Shacktown. 8pm



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RAPP FAMILY
Sadie Rapp hard at work.

GREEN
FROM PAGE 1

"It's not uncommon to get invitations that are more like wedding invitations than a birthday invitation," Rapp said. "We have family in New York and other places, where they tend to go pretty fancy with their bar and bat mitzvahs. Here, in general, it tends to be a lot lower key."

That's why she said she felt comfortable going the non-traditional route of emailing invitations, and her family said they supported the decision all the way. Besides the obvious benefits of using less paper and saving money on printing and mailing costs, Rapp said there are some benefits she hadn't considered.

"There's instant gratification," she said. "Right away, people respond, we get great feedback about how excited people are, and people that can't come can communicate a nice message to Sadie."

The invitations were just the beginning. The simple idea of keeping things a little green spawned quickly.

There were the flowers made out of bottle caps and tabs, place cards made out of old cereal boxes and candle holders from recycled cans.

The Rapp family picked a hotel close by for out-of-town guests so people could walk, and Sadie plans to call friends and family to thank them for gifts instead of sending out thank-you notes.

Neighbors and family quickly caught on, and through word of mouth and a blog, news got out.

"We'd come home and find tons of cereal boxes in our mailbox," Sadie said.

And again, in an effort to be environmentally conscious, Rapp said they were continuously rewarded with small surprises.

Instead of buying and labeling hundreds of yarmulkes for the big day, Sadie decided to re-use some that family members had saved and label them herself.

Rapp said in the process of doing this, she came across a yarmulke from 50 years ago from the Jewish day camp where her parents met. Its memories like those that may well make this type of project a new tradition for many families — the same families that are following Sadie in her quest on mygreenbatmitzvah.blogspot.com

The blog has reached heights neither Sadie nor her mom thought possible when they began the project. There have been rabbis from other communities and friends of friends commenting and offering their support.

"When you're 13 years old, you already believe you can change the world, and then you have all these adults saying, 'I believe in you and you inspire me,'" Rapp said. "It's really powerful. I expect Sadie to ride this wave for a long time. I don't know what she'll do with it, but she's charged up."

Sadie's bat mitzvah is this Saturday, Dec. 19, and Sadie said she is more excited than nervous about the culmination of all her hard work.

Rapp, the proud parent, said she too is excited, but not just for the bat mitzvah.

"I'm looking forward to getting all this garbage out of my house and out to the world," she said.

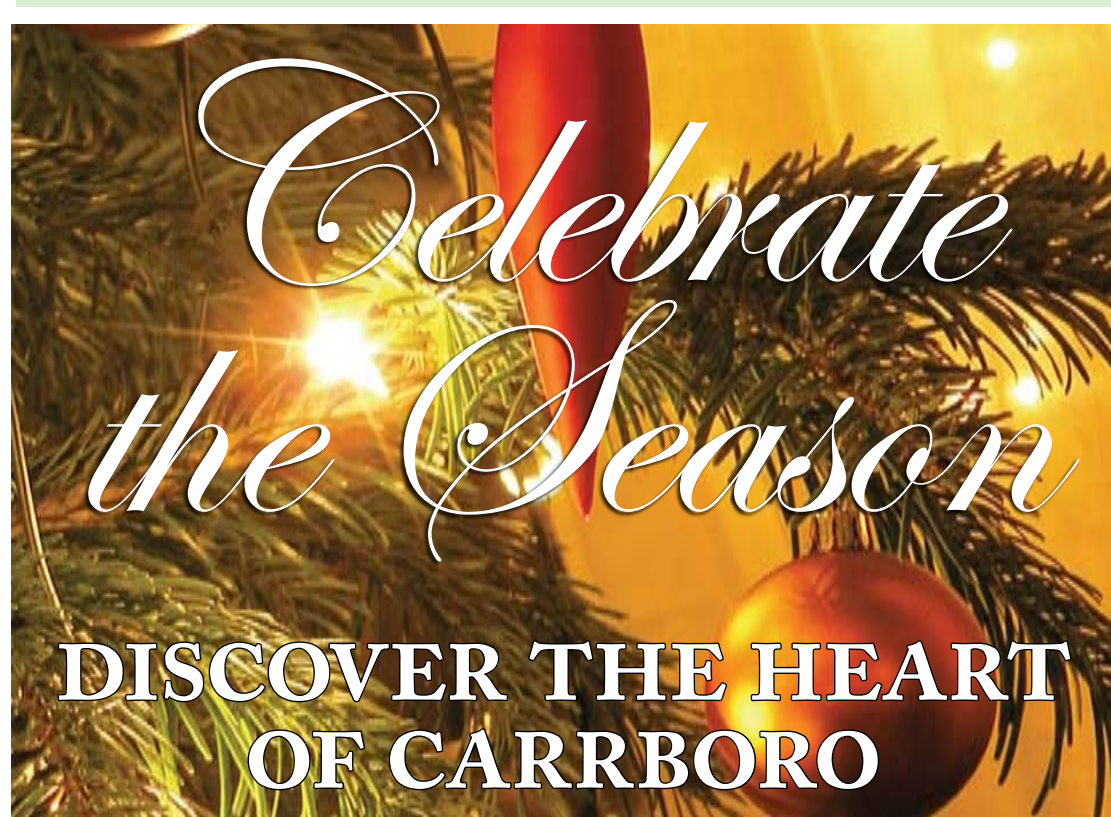


SA 12/26 WINTER REGGAE JAM
DUB ADDIS & CRUCIAL FIYA**(\$8/\$10)
SA 12/26 L IN JAPANESE DANCE PARTY**(\$12)
TH 12/31(\$20/\$25)**
NEW YEARS EVE SHOW!
BILLY PRICE BAND
SA 1/9/2010(\$10/\$12)**
ABBEY ROAD LIVE!
SU 1/10/2010 RJD2
W/THE CONSTELLATIONS AND HAPPY CHICHESTER**(\$15/\$17)
FR 1/15/2010
THE OLD CEREMONY
W/DEX ROMWEBER DUO**(\$10)
SA 1/16/2010 WHO'S BAD?**
SU 1/17/2010(\$15)**
DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND

FR 1/22/2010 THE LAST WALTZ ENSEMBLE**(\$10/\$12)
FR 1/29/2010 COSMIC CHARLIE (GRATEFUL DEAD COVERS)**(\$6/\$8)
SA 1/30/2010 URBAN SOPHISTICATES, THE BEAST, INFLENTIAL, KAZE**(\$10/\$12)
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
WE 2/24/2010 CLIENTELE W/VETIVER**(\$13/\$15)
TH 2/25/2010 STATE RADIO**(\$15)
SU 2/28/2010 NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL-STARS**(\$16/\$18)
SA 3/6/2010 ROGUE WAVE**(\$14/\$16)
TH 3/25/2010 THE XX**(\$14/\$16)
FR 4/2/2010 THE BIG PINK
W/A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS**(\$13/\$15)
SU 4/4/2010 YEASAYER**(\$14/\$16)
ON SALE DECEMBER 17
TH 4/22/2010 NEEDTOBREATHE W/WILL HOGE**(\$15/\$18)
ON SALE JANUARY 8

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News Briefs

Closings

The following Town of Carrboro Town Hall, Century Center and Public Works offices will be closed Dec. 23, 24 and 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Municipal offices in Chapel Hill will be closed Dec. 24- Dec. 28.

For Carrboro residents who normally have Friday recycling collection, the collection that would normally occur on Dec. 25 will now be on Saturday Dec. 26, and the collection that would occur Jan. 1 will now be on Jan. 2. Bins out by 7 a.m. is still a good rule.

For Chapel Hill residents, there will be no residential garbage service on Dec. 28. Monday routes will be collected Wednesday, Dec. 30. There will be no yard waste collection Dec. 24 or 25 and no curbside recycling on Friday Dec. 25. Friday routes will be collected Saturday, Dec. 26.

Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25.

Reduced transit schedule

Chapel Hill Transit (CHT) will operate winter reduced service beginning this Saturday. The following routes will end earlier: CM, CW, D, J, NU and V. The Safe Rides and Saturday/Sunday U and NU routes will not operate.

Shared Ride services will end at 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Full service will resume on Monday, Jan. 11. For specific schedule information, please visit chtransit.org or call a customer service representative at 969-4900.

Chatham wants input on waste

Chatham County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee invites residents to its next meeting on Jan. 6 to review and provide feedback on proposed updates to the 10-Year Comprehensive Waste Management Plan. The meeting will be held in the Dunlap Building Classroom at 80 East St. in downtown Pittsboro.

The public-input period will be held during the regular meeting, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

Copies of the draft plan can be viewed on the Waste Management Department website at chathamnc.org/waste-management

Board of aldermen on break

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen is currently on its winter break. The next meeting of the board will be Jan. 12.

Affordable housing board named

On Dec. 7, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved appointments to the county's first Affordable Housing Advisory Board, which has replaced a task force focused on affordable housing. The new advisory board has several seats for residents across the county as well as several designated seats for groups involved with affordable housing, such as realtors, builders, nonprofits and residents who are underserved or in a protected class under civil rights laws.

The board will have a total of 11 voting members and nine non-voting (ex officio) members. Newly appointed resident members are Michael Dasher, Linda Lang, Carlos Simpson, Jeffrey Starkweather, William Leroy and Margaret Wurth. Realtor member is Lonnie West, builder member is Lee Bowman, legal member is Arturo Guillermo Velasquez and underserved and protected-classes member is Faythe Clark.

Arts cooperative opening on Franklin Street

BY RICH FOWLER
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Town, university, and business leaders gathered on Monday afternoon to welcome FRANK to Chapel Hill. This new gallery for the Franklin Street Arts Collective is set to officially open in the old Rite-Aid building on the 100 block of East Franklin Street in late January or early February 2010.

"We finally now have this great destination — arts destination — right here in our community," said Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt.

The town helped create the space by partnering with the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership and making a \$40,000 loan through the Small Art Business Loan Program.

Gordon Jameson, chair of the board of directors for the collective, said that they designed the 3,400-square-foot gallery to be flexible, with moving wall panels that will allow them to reconfigure the space to accommodate a wide variety of exhibits and performances.

Jameson wants to include local musicians, poets and authors in the gallery as well.



PHOTO BY RICH FOWLER

FRANK members and town officials engage in a cooperative ribbon-cutting at the announcement of the new gallery, which is located in the old Rite-Aid building at 109 East Franklin Street.

"I think it's really important for us to be involved with the whole art community, even if they're not actually showing in the gallery, because we need their support and we need to support them," he said.

Twenty-five local artists joined the cooperative as members, and 50 regional and national artists will sell their work

through the gallery as non-members.

Luna Lee Ray is a member of the new collective, and is a mixed-media artist who has been in business for 12 years.

"The idea of having something on Franklin Street is really exciting. The idea of having something that the town is pulling for and trying to help out, I think is great.

As a collective it's really more supportive of artists than a regular gallery," Ray said.

George Draper, chair of the downtown partnership, said that the new gallery has the potential to bring a lot of new visitors to downtown.

"This is another major step in our revitalization efforts of downtown," he said.



Street corner caroling

Last Friday, musician Seamus Kenney (far right) posted a call for carolers on his Facebook page. Despite a chilly evening, he and an intrepid band of singers made their way from the corner of Columbia and Franklin streets to downtown Carrboro — singing all the way. Pictured along with Kenney are (left to right) Mark Daumen, Irene Sadler, Zoe von Bengson, Laurie Bengson and Alex Wilkins.

PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

COUNCIL FROM PAGE 1

"With all the talk of increasing residents downtown," she said, "it's important to remember that residential areas in downtown have always existed."

Kleinschmidt said Tuesday he is delighted to see Bell named and the lengthy wait to fill the vacancy over.

"I'm grateful to have it behind us," he said. "I think the council handled it in a reasoned and respectful way and I'm pretty excited about the council we have seated."

The council vacancy and what to do about it was not without controversy, including the timing. Strom's resignation, which came after the close of filing season, meant that the vacancy would not

be added to the fall ballot and the previous council ultimately rejected a timetable proposed by outgoing mayor Kevin Foy to name a replacement prior to the seating of a new council. Kleinschmidt and Czajkowski, whom he narrowly defeated in the mayor's race, both advocated for letting the new council decide the outcome.

At Monday's meeting, Czajkowski and Pease advocated for selecting the fifth-place finisher in the election.

Pease said he was deeply disappointed over Strom's timing.

"I believe strongly, the voters should have made this decision," he said.

Czajkowski noted he had been a strong advocate for picking the fifth-place finisher since August. He said many people are angry over not being able to

decide the vacancy in the election and advocated for choosing Pohlman as a way of responding to those concerns saying:

"In one fell swoop, we will have said to those people convincingly, through our actions, that their concerns in that regard have been allayed," Czajkowski said.

Council member Sally Green said she understood the impulse to choose the fifth-place finisher, but felt that the council was lacking without African-American representation.

She advocated for Bell, saying she was a sound choice because of the need for representation and a conduit for concerns for the black community and because of Bell's experience.

"I believe she has the competency to jump in and be an

effective council member," Greene said.

New council member Penny Rich said that like other council members, she has heard a wide range of opinions on the choice.

She said while most opinions were reasoned, she found one email stating that a woman with a young child should not be on a governing body to be sexist and offensive. She noted that the standard was not applied to the men with young children who applied to serve.

Bell has a one-year-old daughter.

"Not only is she an African-American," Rich said, "she's a woman, she's a mother . . . she's very competent, she has a master's degree; she is smart. I think she will bring a voice and a face to this council that we need at this time."

THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

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Debit & EBT

Christmas Holiday Schedule

Orange County Solid Waste Management

Curbside Recycling

There will be NO SERVICE on Friday, December 25
MAKE-UP recycling day is Saturday, December 26!
Please have your bins out by 7:00 am

Orange County Landfill

and all associated programs such as the Hazardous Waste Collection and mulch sales will close early

2:00 p.m. Thursday, December 24
Closed Friday, December 25
Regular hours resume Saturday, December 26
7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Solid Waste Convenience Centers

will be closed as usual

Thursday, December 24
Closed Friday, December 25
Regular hours resume Saturday, December 26
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/

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Community Briefs

Toy Chest for needy children
The Orange County Department of Social Services is in need of donations of new toys, books, children's clothing and non-perishable food items for the Orange County Toy Chest.

The third annual Toy Chest opened its doors on Dec. 14th. During the four-day program, more than 4,000 children are expected to receive toys. Due to the current economic climate, more families than ever are in need of help and support during the holiday season.

To make a monetary donation, contact Donna Hall at the Orange County Department of Social Services at 245-2800. Checks or toys can be dropped off at either the Southern Human Services on 2501 Homestead Road in Chapel Hill or Whitted Human Services at 300 West Tryon Street in Hillsborough. Checks can also be mailed to the Orange County Department of Social Services at 300 West Tryon St., P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27278. For more information on the program, including additional toy drop-off locations, go to the Web site at co.orange.nc.us/holidayprogram

New Year Eve's Concert benefit

There will be an evening of jazz with the Bradshaw Quartet and Christen Campbell to benefit the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services at 7 p.m. at United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Blankets needed for winter

Over the last couple weeks, 150 blankets have been donated by Orange County residents and their friends. That's halfway to the goal set by organizers of the sixth annual campaign to blanket Orange County.

The goal of the drive this year is to collect 300 new or gently used blankets before Dec. 21 (the first day of winter). All of the blankets collected this year will go to the Inter-Faith Council.

Blankets can be dropped off at these locations until Dec. 21: the Chamber of Commerce on Estes Drive, the YMCA on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., UNC Wellness at Meadowmont and the YMCA at Meadowmont on Old Barn Lane.

Cash donations are also accepted. All cash donations will be used to purchase new blankets locally.

Comedy show on Christmas Eve

DSI Comedy Theater announced an early present in local comedy fans stockings this week, when it announced a special Christmas Eve Show with New York-based writer and performer Kumail Nanjiani. Nanjiani will be performing a special show on Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 8 p.m. at the theater. Tickets cost \$10.

Land development input extended

Due to a delay in getting newsletters to citizens, the Town of Hillsborough is extending its deadline for feedback on land development rules.

The town will accept survey responses through Dec. 31. The survey is part of a nine-month process that the town has begun to comprehensively update Hillsborough's development ordinances.

The detailed survey is available on the town's website. Look for the red "rewrite" link on the Planning Department page. Those who already have expressed an interest in the process should have received a direct link to the survey by email.

To receive a hard copy of the survey, call the Planning Department at 732-1270, ext. 85, and leave a name and mailing address.

New fitness opportunities at YMCA

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA will unveil new, exercise equipment and a mobile personal training program on Dec. 29.

The CHC YMCA will begin its facilities transformation by replacing its weight-training machines. The facility also will upgrade its MobileFit personal training program, allowing users to take their training routine on the road.

The CHC YMCA's MobileFit upgrade will allow users to download their personalized training program to an iPhone or iPod for mobile access to their virtual training at any time. The program's new capabilities will make it easy for members to take their training program on the road and keep up with their progress from home.

For more information about the new fitness opportunities at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA and its full range of programs, visit chcymca.org/chc_yanca.php

Community Calendar

FRIDAY, DEC 18

Meet the Author Tea — The Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library will host a Meet the Author Tea with Erica Eisdorfer, author of *The Wet Nurse's Tale*. Refreshments will be served at 3:30pm; the program will start at 4pm. 968-2780

A Child's Christmas in Wales

— Free child's ticket with every adult ticket purchased Dec. 18-20 Fridays-Saturdays @ 7pm, Sundays @ 3pm. The ArtsCenter, 300-G East Main Street, Carrboro. \$10, \$8 for members and students. artscenterlive.org

SATURDAY, DEC 19

Annual Book Sale — The Friends of the Carrboro Library will hold its annual book sale in the McDougall School's Cafeteria at 900 Old Fayetteville Rd. Proceeds from the sale go towards library programming and purchase library materials. Hours: Dec. 19: 8am-3pm; Dec. 20: 1-4pm, 969-3006

Storytelling — Donald Davis will tell holiday stories in the Fearington Barn at 11am. Canned food donations for Chatham Outreach Alliance are requested.

Arts and Crafts fair — Johnny's on Main Street in Carrboro will host an all day crafts fair featuring food, live music, a wine tasting and arts and crafts from local artists. The event runs from 9am to 5pm. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Carrboro Community Garden.

A Mad Teapot Invitational Exhibition and Sale

— An exquisite exhibit of teapots and serving dishes created by professional craft artists from throughout the region. 1-6 pm Tuesday - Friday 11am-5:30pm Saturdays through Jan 15. hillsboroughartsandcraftscouncil.org

SUNDAY, DEC 20

Craft and Records Fair — At the Nightlight. Arts, crafts, books, records and more. 2-6pm. 405 W. Rosemary St.

Habitat Humanity Concert — Soprano Rachel Hall will perform at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in support of Habitat Humanity and TABLE. 3pm. Non-perishable food donations

are welcome.

Ongoing Cancer Support

— Support groups for cancer patients and their families. comucopiainhouse.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. 967-3221, chapelhillctf.org

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. All are welcome. The class is informal and designed for discussion. A brief sitting meditation will be included. Suggested donation for each class: \$5. 968-9426, piedmontkctc.org

Yoga for Everyone

— UNC Comprehensive Cancer Support Program presents Yoga for Everyone. Each class will include a full yoga practice as well as exploration of physical movement, meditation, breathing techniques, and relaxation. All levels are welcome. Classes will be held on Mondays from 11am - 12:30pm. Carolina Pointe II, 6013 Farrington Road, Suite 101 in Chapel Hill. 966-3494.

DivorceCare

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

Family to Family

— A series of 12 weekly classes structured to help family members understand and support a family member suffering with mental illness. The class is free and sponsored by NAMIOrange. Contact Gove Elder at 967-5403 or gbelder@bellsouth.net.

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

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. Reservations recommended for groups of five or more people.

Breastfeeding Café — 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.

Kids

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

Preschool Story Time — Saturdays, 10:45-11:15am, 11:30am-noon, Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E. Franklin St. \$2. 933-1455, kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

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. Carr Mill Mall, Second Floor, 636-4457

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1 Wine word	52 Welsh symbol	106 Chemist Marie	6 Guns the engine	47 Basilica feature	101 — tai
4 Hardy hog	54 "Oh, woe!"	109 Savvy	7 Recruit-to-be's status	48 Cupid, for one	102 First name in fashion
9 Metric weight	56 QB's stats	110 Part 3 of remark	8 AKC rejects	53 Feel certain	104 Loyal
13 Meeting place	58 Depend (on)	116 Studio	9 Cheese-board choice	55 Move	105 Frigga's fellow
18 — of You" ("84 hit)	62 Basketball's Patrick	117 Port —, Egypt	57 Withered	59 — hour	107 Bankbook abbr.
19 Speak freely	64 Blazer part	118 Shoe part	60 Apollo's instrument	61 1492 or 1776	110 Occur
21 Designer	68 VCR button	122 — Beta	11 Sphere	63 Sward	111 Natural gas component
22 Gemreich	69 Pipe cleaner?	123 Director	12 Sampras stroke	66 Hungarian composer	112 Actress
22 Meyerbeer masterpiece	70 "A Doll's House" heroine	125 Joins forces	14 —Locka, FL	67 Pony	113 Cleared the slate
23 Speaker of remark at 41 Across	72 Protection	129 Moro of Italy	15 Sea or strait	68 At present	114 Turn of phrase
25 Orenburg's river	74 Sweet	130 Clerical title	16 Rodeo horse	71 Relative of pre-	115 Navy warrior
26 Munchhausen's title	75 Geologic period	133 Indication	17 Pulled hard	73 — throat	119 Dagger's partner
27 Lhasa —	76 Part 2 of remark	135 End of remark	20 "Fiel"	76 Grant or Laurie	120 Put on a pedestal
28 Strut	82 Diminutive suffix	138 Register	24 — me tangere	77 Nautical advb	121 Famous p-p-pig
30 "Mamma —" ("76 song)	83 Overwhelm	139 Burdon or idle	29 Army offender	78 Salad ingredient	124 Actress
32 Cephalopod's squirt	84 Pound of poetry	140 Change	31 Pro foe	79 Set up for a fall	126 Item of True Value
33 German astronomer	85 Story	141 First zoo?	32 Compass pt.	80 Zapotec's home	127 Singer James
36 Blows away	86 "Holy cow!"	142 Poor	35 Allen or Reed	81 Marge in the fridge	128 Mock grade
38 Increase	87 Actress Berger	143 Salt serving	37 Use rollerblades	82 Excellent	131 Poet
41 Start of remark	88 Eisenhower or Perot	144 Subdued	39 Concealed	83 Grad	132 TV Tarzan
46 Cal. page	89 Eisenhower	145 "Brand New —" ("71 hit)	40 At a distance	84 Caligula's nephew	134 "M*A*S*H"
49 Napoleon's fate	92 Busybody	DOWN	42 Lab item	85 Constrains	136 When Pierre perspires
50 Show the way	95 Collier's concern	1 "Wheel of Fortune" host	43 Grasso or Wilcox	86 Nourished	137
51 Mrs. Eddie Cantor	97 Dadaism founder	2 Split and splice	44 Swunk a sickle part		
	98 Drained	3 Necklace part	45 "Lidfinger" character		
	99 Singer	4 Rimsky-Korsakov's "Le Coq —"	46 Stout relative		
	100 Carter or Vanderbilt	5 News org.			
	103 In addition				

CitizenCryptquote By Martin Brody

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

"Really?"

T I S M C Q H Q K T Y C . T
 N G Y C X M S ' C D L V T L J L
 T S I T A T S O C E L H Q K L Y
 C E Q C U Q Z . - N G Y C T K L
 M R C E L W L Q K L B L T C E
 D Q H X U L V V , M S X L S Z T S O
 Q S T S C L H H Q K T Q V K M G W V L
 Q I Q H H T Q O L V T K L S Y L T S
 V M G T Y T Q S Q

Find the answer in the puzzle answer section.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9	3			1				5
		4			3		6	
1			2		9			3
7			6			1		
	1				8			7
	6	5		7			4	
	9		4				8	
3					2	5		
		2		3				6

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging
 ★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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PETS OF THE WEEK

PAWS4EVER — Meet Dexter!

He is a 17-month-old brown-and-white Tabby. Dexter is a very special boy at paws4ever. He had a severe case of ringworm and had to remain at our clinic until he finally got all better and made it over to the adoption center. He is a little shy at first when meeting new people, but if you just sit on the floor or chair and talk to him, he'll come and and talk away. Once you pet Dexter he's yours, he rolls around on his belly purring and rubbing on your legs, begging for someone to scoop him up and give him his new forever home. He gets along great with all the other cats. He's never met a dog so we will update soon when he meets one and let you all know if a dog friend would work out with Dexter. Come in and ask about our special little man, you'll be delighted you did. 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



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES — Meet Custer!

This cute Chihuahua mix is around 7 months old and very friendly! He loves people and adventures and is always ready to meet you with a big smile and eager attitude. His perky expressions and super-adaptable personality are sure to make him a great match for almost any home. Don't miss out on cute little Custer! This pint-sized boy won't last long. Visit him today at Orange County's Animal Services Center, 1601 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill or call 942-PETS (7387). You can also see him online at co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp.



Business Briefs

Solar company opens office in Hillsborough

FLS Energy, an Asheville-based solar-energy company has chosen Hillsborough as the location of its first office outside of Western North Carolina.

The company provides renewable-energy planning, design and installation services from small solar hot-water installations to utility-scale solar farms.

Chris Wachholz, a member of FLS' Business Development division, is a longtime Orange County resident who has been charged with opening the Hillsborough office. He said the company chose Hillsborough because of local support for solar power.

The Orange County-based office will serve FLS' growing list of projects in Research Triangle Park, the Piedmont Triad and the Eastern North Carolina area, including a large 1.2-megawatt solar array being installed at the SAS campus in Cary, as well as retail retrofits and solar installations for the military and area universities.

The office, which opened on Dec. 1, is located in Hillsborough's Summit Business Campus.

UNC unveils streamlined licensing to spur business spin-offs

Starting a company based on technology invented at UNC should become easier and faster with a new standard licensing agreement.

The university's technology transfer office developed the Carolina Express License Agreement to offer one set of terms to cover widely divergent deals with minimal negotiation.

Cathy Innes, director of the Office of Technology Development, said the new agreement was a fundamental departure from business as usual.

"The Holy Grail in technology transfer transactions is the elusive 'standard' license agreement," said Innes. "We believe we've come up with a set of terms that will work for all UNC start-up licenses that is fair and reasonable to all stakeholders and can be put in place with no negotiation. I don't know of any other universities that have tried this approach."

Innes said she hoped the new agreement would make UNC-based spin-offs attractive to venture-backed investors and other commercialization partners. "Ultimately, that will amplify the impact that Carolina will have in economic development and improving the health and well-being of society," she said.

Nominations being accepted for Business of the Year Awards

The Chapel Hill Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the 2009 Business of the Year Awards. Nominations are due Wednesday, Jan. 6. Categories include Business of the Year Awards for small, mid-sized and large businesses and Business Newcomer of the Year. Forms are available on the chamber's web site at carolinachamber.org/annualmeeting

Winners will be named at the chamber's annual meeting on Jan. 28.

Santa going to the dogs (and cats)

Phydeaux, a pet supply store in Chapel Hill, will be holding a photo event at the store this Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Santa and his elves will be on hand to photograph pets (all friendly pets – you bring them, Santa will snuggle them) and children.

Pictures with Santa are free, but a donation of \$5 is recommended, with all proceeds to be donated to the Orange County Animal Shelter. Pet owners and parents will receive their pictures in the store the same day.

Phydeaux is located at 400 A1 S. Elliott Road.

Carbon monoxide detectors required

Effective Jan. 1, an amendment to North Carolina General Statute 42-42 will become effective across the state, requiring landlords to provide carbon monoxide detectors in rental property.

By law, this same statute has for years required landlords to provide "fit premises" with regard to the basic services and upkeep, as well as requiring basic life-safety devices such as smoke alarms in each rental unit.

This new amendment will require that the landlord provide and install a minimum of one operable carbon monoxide detector per rental unit, per level within all rental properties that have fossil-fuel burning heaters or appliances, a fireplace or an attached garage.

Additional information on carbon monoxide hazards is available by contacting the Chapel Hill Fire Department at 968-2781 or your local heating gas provider.

BIZ BEAT

Making local work for you

MARGOT C. LESTER

There's been a lot of hullabaloo about buying local this holiday season. And I say, right on! But I'm not an ideologue who's trying to guilt you into changing your shopping patterns. My desire to support locally owned producers, purveyors and providers is rooted in *my* roots. I grew up in a family-owned business. I know the value of loyal customers. So I advocate buying local whenever possible because it's the gift that keeps on giving.

According to town officials, for every dollar you spend with a locally owned business, 68 cents stays in the community. Spend that same buck at a chain store and only 43 cents sticks around. So more of your hard-earned cash is put to work in the community (in the form of sales and business taxes, wages paid, charitable support, etc.) when you spend it with a local business owner. What's not to like?

In an ideal world, we'd all be buying goods and services made and sold by people who live in our own town. It's a swell vision, but it's unrealistic unless you want the auto industry to relocate to Carrboro or the washing machine manufacturers to establish an outpost in Hillsborough. For those of us who want to do more to support our local economy, a better definition of "local" is required.

So what is it? Hard to say. Some would like to set the commerce border at the town limits, but that triggers the unavailability issues mentioned above. Same goes for county borders. Some foodies consider local within 150 miles. I'm on Carrboro's Local Living Economy Task Force, and I can tell you even we aren't 100 percent sure what "local" is. So maybe it's just however far you have to go to find all the stuff you need.

Lacking a simple rule, I've developed my own approach. Here's how it works: Since Carrboro is the center of my universe, I envision concentric circles emanating from the Paris of the Piedmont. I try to buy in and of Carrboro first, then Chapel Hill, White Cross or Hillsborough. Admittedly, it's a damn sight easier to buy from a locally owned business than try to make sure every item on your list is grown or made locally. Where, after all, am I going to find a locally made popcorn popper? If you know, pass it on! So if I have to go to a chain store, I try to find a franchise in the area so at least I'm helping a neighbor (plus racking up those sales tax revenues and supporting job creation). If that's not possible, like when our washer died earlier this year and needed to be replaced,



PHOTO BY KIRK ROSS

Carrboro team spirit on display at Nested on Main Street.

I choose chain stores carefully. (I pick Lowe's over Home Depot, for example, because Lowe's is based in Mooresville, N.C. At least that way I'm helping the state's corporate tax base.) And if what I need's not available from a company based in the Old North State, I try to shop stores in Orange County, so at least sales taxes ring up in my neck of the woods.

Now, I'm not saying you have to check out all your favorite stores to determine local ownership. That's probably not practical for 90 percent of us (me, included). Nor am I suggesting that locality should trump price if cost is a major factor in your buying habits (as it likely is for many in an economy like this one). Local's better for the community, but it might not always be best for your cash flow. Yes, I said it. Please don't send me any angry letters.

The key, to my mind, is to *try*. Make one decision this week to buy something made and/or sold by someone in your own burgh. Every little bit helps!

Last-minute gift ideas

If you're still struggling to find the perfect gift for someone on your list, here are a few ideas:

First Lady of Fabulous Reusable Grocery Bag: Adorned with a likeness of Michelle Obama, these cool bags show your devotion to our stylish First Lady and the environment. Talk about liberal chic! \$12.95, Kitchenworks, University Mall.

Dinner for Two: Give a gift certificate (enough for a dinner for two) to their favorite restaurant (or yours!). Most eateries have their menus on the web, so you can check prices.

Charger Mats: Most of us have at least one device that needs charging. I'm intrigued by the mats that allow you to just lay your device down and – *voilà* – the batteries are a-chargin', no plugs required! Prices range from \$50 to \$125, and they're available at most major retailers and computer stores.

Mr. & Mrs. Claus Candied Apples: Double your fun with these cute – and tasty – holiday treats. Miel Bon Bons, Carr Mill Mall.

Charitable Giving: With so many people needing a little extra help this year, why not channel your holiday gift-giving to a local charity. Choose an organization that's meaningful to the recipient and make a donation in his or her name. There's a good list at ncnonprofits.org/memberlists/orange.asp.

Light Reading: How did Chapel Hill get where it is today? Find out in *Remembering Chapel Hill: The Twentieth Century as We Lived It*, written by The Citizen's own Valerie Schwartz. \$21.99, Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill; Brick Alley Books, Hillsborough; and McIntyre's Books, Ferrington Village.

Local Goodies: Want to give hand-crafted items this winter, but don't want to do the crafting yourself? Head to one of the local farmers' markets and pick up some preserves, soaps, and other crafts and food-stuffs. It's the most direct way to support your local economy!



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Justin Townes Earle & Dawn Landes • SAT 1/30

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Karla Bonoff • SAT 2/13

John Mayall • WED 2/17

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FOR THE RECORD

Slow Down

This is that time of year when school suddenly ends, the university goes into sleep mode and most places of employment, save those in retail and food, start moving in slow motion, as vacations, errands and the occasional bout with the flu reduce the number of hands on deck.

But rather than taking time to reflect in this traditional time of reflection, we've become accustomed to revving up.

"... what can we expect from a season whose chief secular image is an overweight, perpetually jolly person who can warp time and space to deliver presents worldwide ..."

We travel a lot more, too — all the more reason to slow down a bit and be a little more cautious. It is no comfort to know that the person driving with a cell phone in one hand while weaving through a parking lot filled with pedestrians is filled with holiday spirit, because these days holiday spirit = frazzled.

'Tis the season where we demand too much of ourselves. We want to impress the unimpressable, pick something perfect for the picky, reconcile all long-running family grievances and have the feast on the table right at halftime.

Of course, what can we expect from a season whose chief secular image is an overweight, perpetually jolly person who can warp time and space to deliver presents worldwide and who keeps a running record of the wishes of each and every child? The bar, dear Santa, is a little high.

It's easy to be cynical this time of year — so much so that most of the professional cynics we know take the rest of the year off about now, lest they lose a bit of their game sparring with the amateurs.

Ah, but if you slow down. If you find a moment to flee from the fray to sit by a fire, stroll slowly through a frosty wood, stare at the ripples on the pond or let yourself linger on the sound of the waves, there you will find some magic in this season. This Earth is at another midpoint, rounding another corner. Winter in full is on us and every creature is aware of that.

We mark this time of year with faith, with family gatherings and with reflection, because it is appropriate to do so. The cycle of life has come to an end and only the beeches still hold their leaves. The greenery we're so fond of this time of year is an ancient reminder that the cycle will come round again.

For now, though, it's nature's quiet time. Here's hoping you see some, too.

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

EMAIL: editor@carrborocitizen.com

FAX: 919-942-2195

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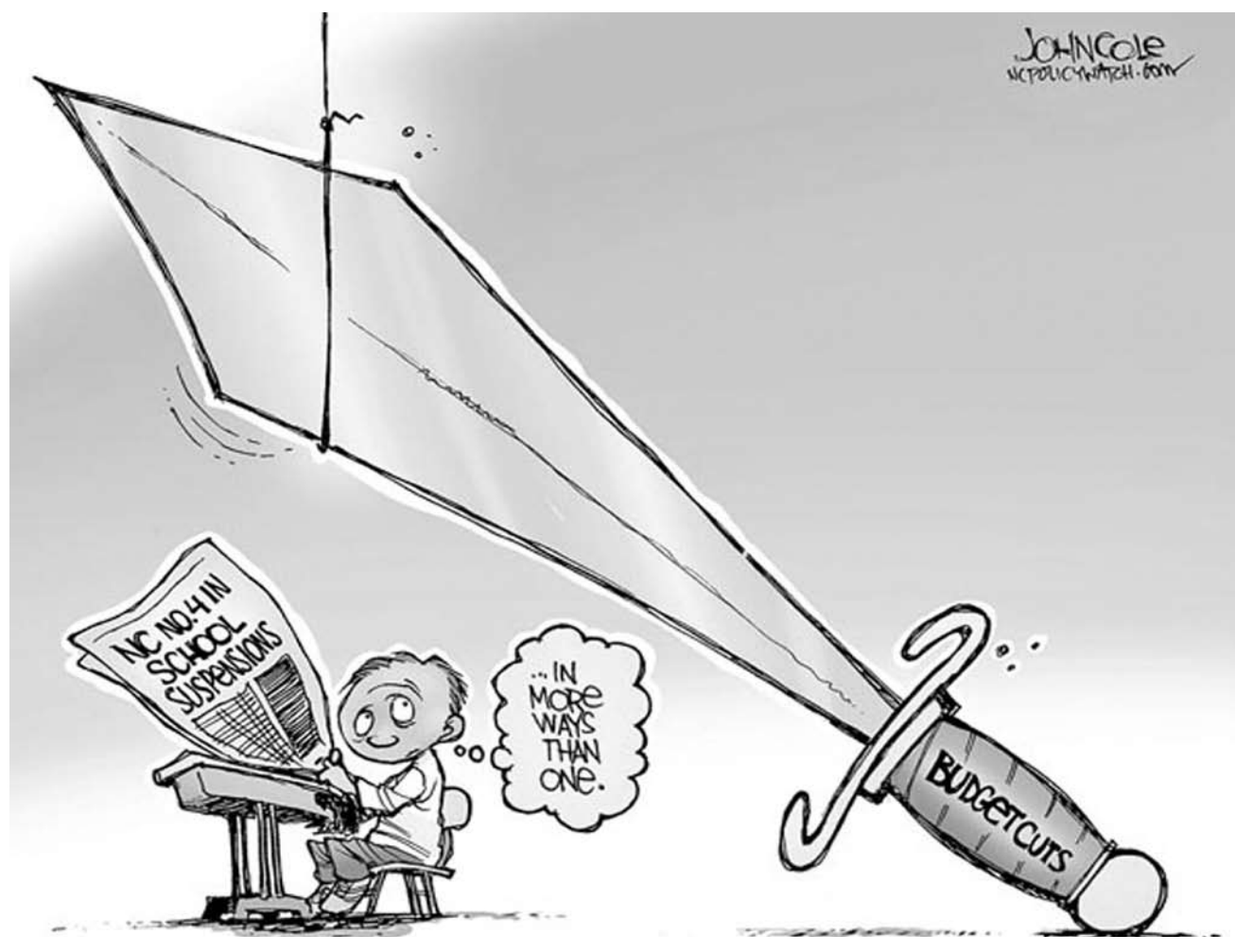
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Make your voice heard on transit

JAMES CARNAHAN

While world leaders in Copenhagen are striving for a global response to climate change and the emissions that trigger it, residents of Carrboro and Chapel Hill have an opportunity to manage our own future emissions. The draft Long Range Transit Plan (LRTP) is currently available for public comment, and we would be well advised to take a look. This document will play an important role in future investments we make in transit infrastructure, and thus in our ability to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, increase the walkability of our towns and enhance the vitality of our local economy.

The LRTP envisions a "concept service plan" featuring six "gateway" nodes at our boundaries, where travelers would be intercepted and transferred to a "robust transit system" with services enhanced throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro. "Travelers should be able to park their automobiles at the city boundaries and use transit to meet virtually all of their mobility needs" (pg. 5-1). It appears to be mainly a congestion-mitigation plan, intended "to divert automobile drivers to transit" (pg. 3-10).

It calls for parking structures costing \$200 million at two of the six proposed gateways. Yet providing parking only encourages continued driving. If we had this \$200 million to spend, why not spend it on the transit technologies that replace driving?

Does this LRTP effectively address the global challenges of peak oil (much higher travel fuel prices) and climate change (the need to restrict burning of fossil fuels)? Do the data used and the outcomes imagined accurately anticipate the choices people will be making in the face of

the emerging global context, about how they travel and where they live? For the year 2035, the plan forecasts 744,300 daily auto person trips in the high-investment scenario that has only 56,300 people riding transit. Will so many of us still be driving if gas is selling for, say, \$8 a gallon in 2035?

The plan favors Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes that bypass Carrboro altogether. It has "high investment" BRT in three Chapel Hill corridors and discounts the Light Rail Transit (LRT) corridor that parallels two of them. Yet it includes data showing the highest ridership would be on "Gateway Service 5C" (table 4-1 and 4-3). This rail corridor extends the regional LRT system through Chapel Hill and Carrboro on a 14.5-mile crescent between a node at the intersection of I-40 and U.S. 15-501 and one at the intersection of I-40 and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. This route passes through Meadowmont, N.C. 54 East, both downtowns, UNC Hospitals, the UNC main campus and Carolina North. It presents a seamless journey to all of these destinations for travelers from Durham and nodes along the regional LRT system — stops where future growth would be concentrated in highly compact, walkable, mixed-use developments.

The policy group constrained the study to Chapel Hill Transit's present service area, making it impossible to accurately compare the economies of scale LRT offers over BRT. LRT appears to be the more expensive investment because the local segment is presented as being dependent only on local revenue sources. But if the regional transit system continues into our downtowns, Carolina North and northern Chapel Hill, it would be financed by multiple funding sources, including federal and state.

This electric-powered LRT system would offer regional travelers multiple stops in our downtowns, while the BRT, running on fossil fuels and requiring travelers to make mode changes, offers them only the intersection of Franklin and Columbia streets. Data from several communities show light rail operations to be cheaper than bus. Even electric trains produce less CO₂ than hybrid buses, due to the poor energy efficiency of bus diesel motors.

The economic, social and environmental benefits of regional trains routed close to much of the commercial and institutional core of Southern Orange County — including Carrboro — are good reasons to refocus on the data that show the rail corridor attracts the highest local ridership. The LRTP will play a key role in shaping our share of the regional transit system. Emphasizing, now, our desire to have electric light rail come to our downtowns and Carolina North lays the necessary foundation. This regional transit outcome requires the unambiguous endorsement of our local elected officials for LRT extending into our towns.

Let's keep working for this unique and historic opportunity to forge a straightforward transit plan that directly links the heart of our community to regional destinations, serves the highest number of transit riders, invigorates both of our downtowns and induces the most compact, walkable, climate-friendly forms of future development.

See townofchapelhill.org/index.aspx?recordid=1218&page=22 to download the LRTP and to learn where to send comments. Comments should be sent in prior to January 12.

James Carnahan is a founder of the Village Project and member of Carrboro's Planning Board.

Keep the reform train rolling

CHRIS FITZSIMON

Government reform is in the air and in the headlines in Raleigh. Gov. Beverly Perdue's new executive orders to toughen ethics rules for her appointees earned her headlines as a reformer, a label not entirely undeserved given her emphasis on a more open administration than her predecessor, Mike Easley.

The latest change puts more members of state boards and commissions under the state ethics law and allows the governor to dismiss appointees who are indicted or refuse to cooperate with an investigation. That prompted former Easley counsel Ruffin Poole to step down from the board of the Golden Leaf Foundation.

Poole fought off a subpoena to testify at board of elections hearings investigating Easley's campaign finances. He is now scheduled to appear before the board next week.

Perdue's announcement and Poole's resignation come amid almost daily stories of political scandals and allegations of ethical lapses or questionable behavior. Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand has been accused of insider trading and steering DOT contracts to a company on whose board he serves.

Former DOT Secretary Lyndo Tipsett, a close friend of Rand's, serves on the corporate board with him and owns significant stock in the com-

pany. Another political supporter of Rand's headed DOT at the time and also owns stock.

Then there are the ongoing investigations into Easley's activities that have already forced a university chancellor to resign and brought a parade of Easley allies to the federal courthouse in Raleigh to testify before a grand jury.

Reform is always in the air when political scandals erupt, as politicians rush to convince the public that they are different. And most of them are, though it is a tough sell.

The latest Elon University Poll found that 73 percent of the people in the state think corruption is common among elected officials, though a majority also believe their individual representatives are doing a good job.

The public is right. The majority of politicians are honest and ethical. And now more than ever they must keep pushing for more reforms of a political system that is based on a form of legalized corruption. We expect candidates to rely on the fundraising and big contributions from a handful of special interests and then treat those patrons like everybody else after the election.

The few limits on fundraising have become almost meaningless. An individual or PAC can give up to \$4,000 to a candidate's campaign, but can give unlimited amounts to the Democratic or Republican Party, which can in turn dole out money in \$100,000

chunks to individual candidates.

Limiting party contributions is long overdue but faces stiff opposition from party insiders and people like House Minority Leader Paul Stam, who recently said that's what political parties are for.

It all points to a different way to fund campaigns, with money that comes with no strings attached, no promises to keep. The public gets that.

A survey released recently by Public Policy Polling found that a bipartisan majority believe changing the way campaigns are financed would be a good way to address the pressures that make corruption more likely.

More than half the Republicans and three-fourths of the Democrats surveyed supported giving candidates a public financing option. The voters don't want their elected officials forced to listen to their big contributors instead of the people they represent.

Public financing won't solve all the problems, but it will address a lot of them. More measures like Perdue's announcement this week will help too. Banning registered lobbyists from policymaking or grantmaking boards is a good idea and there are plenty more changes needed.

Good for Governor Perdue. Let's keep the reform train moving.

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

Playing politics with prisoners

One of the largest departments in state government is the Department of Correction (which is a sad statement about our society). The name was chosen to reflect the goal of returning people convicted of crimes to society as responsible citizens by the use of appropriate programs. The philosophy was that if inmates behaved while in prison and tried to better themselves by getting an education, enrolling in ethics and character building, drug and alcohol treatment and behavioral-management programs to become accountable for their actions, they would be rewarded with time off their sentences. It was also an effective way to control inmates who can be a dangerous mix in large numbers by giving them a credit for every day they behaved. Later legislatures decided on other public policies and programs with different approaches, but always with the goal of changing anti-social behavior and returning people to society capable of living a law-abiding, productive life in the community.

A review of the records of these inmates would show that they have put in countless hours and even years in prison rehabilitative programs, educational courses, community building and faith-based relationships through local churches' prison ministries. Many of these inmates cleaned our highways, worked to restore communities after hurricanes, painted schools, built playground equipment and made many other contributions to our communities. Many have been on work-release and working alongside us.

The courts have rightly interpreted the statutes existing at the time that those inmates who fulfilled the requirements should be released.

The irony of the present situation is that many of those inmates would have received shorter sentences for the same crimes under later statutes and would have been out long ago. Finally, these inmates are mostly old men and women, who statistically are not a high crime demographic.

The disposition of these inmates is a matter for the courts to decide and should not be used as a political football.

SEN. ELEANOR KINNAIRD
District 23

The desire to silence

Why is it that people don't want you to hear both sides of an issue? What types of people don't want to compete in the marketplace of ideas?

The Dec. 3 issue of The Citizen provides us with great examples, as do current events. First, Chris Fitzsimons tells us to ignore the voices of those who feel that our government is failing us. Then, Sen. Kinnaird, Rep. Insko and others try to stifle Blue Cross Blue Shield from weighing in on the health care bills in Congress (similar to the Obama administration's attempts to muzzle Humana). And then we have the emails of the Climate Research Unit (CRU) director Phil Jones exposing data manipulation and the suppression of conflicting research and opinion on global warming, I mean climate change (doesn't that happen on a yearly basis?).

I urge you to evaluate the data yourselves. The Elon poll on government performance is at elon.edu. There you will find that, like Mr. Jones, Mr. Fitzsimons prefers to massage the data to fit his conclusion. The ["Troubling moves by Blue Cross Blue Shield" letter, Dec. 3] speaks for itself: "Even if there is no apparent violation of existing statutes, we think this is bad public policy."

Huh, informing customers of potential effects of pending legislation on them is bad public policy? Interesting take. Finally, for those who like real science — like considerations of plate tectonics, precession and nutation, the variations and anomalies of the Earth's electromagnetic field or solar flare cycles — the fraud and scientific censorship of Phil Jones and the CRU are available for your perusal and amusement at theblog-prof.blogspot.com. And I'd love to provide you with the data that Phil Jones used to support the global warming argument, but it seems that data has been "lost." Right.

Data doesn't lie. Don't believe everything you read and don't read everything you believe. Keep your mind open. Get your info from the source and make your own opinions.

GORDON COOK
Carrboro

OBITUARIES

Teresa Rad

Teresa Mitchell Rad, 47, of Carrboro, North Carolina, died Monday, Dec. 7, 2009 at UNC Hospitals after an eight-month-long battle with lung cancer.

Teresa was born in Winston-Salem, N.C., Jan. 11, 1962 to Grover and Dorothy Mitchell. In 1984, she graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor of arts degree in English literature.

Theresa's love of the Chapel Hill area kept her in the area throughout most of her adult life. Shortly after college, she was hired at The Village Companies, where her career in sales and advertising began. In 1998, she founded Radius Communications, an advertising agency specializing in programs for malls around the country.

She was a loving, energetic and devoted mother to her three boys. She loved books, politics and walks down Franklin Street, especially on those first heart-breaking beautiful days of spring. She never forgot a birthday. Her life-of-the-party personality and love of '70s dance music made people smile.

Theresa is survived by her three children, Cyrus, 10, and Kaveh and Jahon, twins, 8; her brother, Glenn Mitchell, and his wife, Melissa Mitchell, and family of Walnut Cove, N.C.; her sister, Deborah Cutrell, and her husband, Norris Cutrell, of Tobac-

coville, N.C.; and a tight circle of devoted friends, whom to her were like family.

Robert D. "Bob" Tayloe

Robert D. "Bob" Tayloe died unexpectedly at home on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009. Bob was born in Salisbury, N.C. on Oct. 16, 1949. He grew up in Ahoskie, N.C. and has been a Chapel Hill resident most of his adult life.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, and son, Daniel, of the home; his mother, Donna Wilson Tayloe, of Chapel Hill; his daughters, Tracey Brown and her husband, Bobby, of Ahoskie and Stacey Hale and her husband, Tony, of Fayetteville; his step-daughter, Deirdre Hatley, of Graham; and two grandchildren, Jameson and Elijah Brown. He was preceded in death by his father, Truitt Tayloe, his brother, Mike Tayloe, and his step-son, Chris Hatley.

Bob was a beloved husband, father and son. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, but his greatest joy in life was coaching and watching Daniel on the baseball diamond.

Thomas Hoffman

Mr. Thomas Laverne Hoffman, 65, died Monday, Dec. 7, 2009 in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Durham. He was a native of Iowa but at-

tended school in Ilion, N.Y. He was a veteran of the Navy. He worked for Remington Arms and later MDS, until becoming disabled. He came to North Carolina to be near his family.

Surviving are his two sons, Thomas Hoffman of Hillsborough and Christian Hoffman of Mebane; one grandson, Henry Hoffman; one granddaughter, Ashlynn Hoffman of Hillsborough; and five brothers, Dennis Hoffman of N.Y., Steve Hoffman of N.Y., Michael Hoffman of Buffalo Junction, VA, David Hoffman of N.Y. and William Hoffman of N.Y.

Marvin Morris

Marvin Morris, 78, passed away Thursday, Dec. 11, 2009 at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill, N.C. after two years of declining health. Marvin was retired from the Chapel Hill Fire Department, after 30 years of service.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, and daughter, Cindy Blake (Ted) of Chapel Hill; four grandchildren, Matt Blake (Amanda Horton), Jason Blake, Caroline Morris and Ryan Morris; and a great-grandchild, Hunter Horton.

Marvin was a beloved husband, father, Poppa and friend. His greatest joy in life was the time he spent with his family, especially his grandchildren.

DHHS FROM PAGE 1

The OPC Area Program is responsible for the oversight and management of publicly funded mental health services in Orange, Person and Chatham counties, and Truitt pointed out that as a result of state budget cuts non-crisis services have been reduced 21.5 percent.

In response to the critical state of mental health care services in North Carolina, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has introduced the CABHA model, which DHHS officials say is designed to improve services by consolidating them. In order to be accredited as a CABHA, an agency must be able to provide four core services – case management for those with mental illness or a substance-abuse problem, comprehensive clinical assessment, medication management and outpatient therapy – and two more from a list of enhanced services.

A Nov. 2 DHHS memo introducing the CABHA designation stated, "The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and system stakeholders have been discussing for some time the concept of identifying and recognizing provider agencies who deliver a comprehensive array of services."

Last Wednesday, Leza Wainwright, director of the DHHS's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse (MHDDSA) told Kinnaird and her colleagues on a legislative oversight committee that the process had involved a wide range of stakeholders, including consumers and their family members.

David Cornwell, executive director of North Carolina Mental

Hope, a mental health consumer advocacy group, disagrees.

"Our focus has been and continues to be on the exclusionary process by which CABHA and other designations and policies have been developed," Cornwell said.

Cornwell argues that consumer representation has been token, citing the names of only a very few consumer advocates listed as attendees at planning meetings – which, he believes, were inad-

equately announced and advanced too rapidly.

"CABHA as a definition wasn't unveiled until November," said Martha Brock, a mental health care consumer advocate. "And they're talking about instituting it Jan. 1? That's crazy. Just plain crazy."

Kinnaird said she is concerned that "we're going to put something in place that's not going to work any better than what we have right now."

Rep. Verla Insko said at Saturday's mental health care forum in Chapel Hill that she hopes to see the CABHA process slowed. Insko represents southern Orange County in the state House and is co-chair of the legislative MHDDSA committee.

"I don't really understand what's behind this, but I know there's no vision behind it."

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Out of business

DHHS Assistant Secretary Michael Watson has said that the CABHA concept is founded in the concern that the state not repeat mistakes made in the provisioning of community support services, for which some providers were found to be dramatically overbilling. He said it was the department's conclusion that services

should be "housed within a clinical organization that promoted accountability and best practice."

DHHS officials have indicated they believe the CABHA designation will facilitate easier management because there will be fewer providers.

But smaller service providers have expressed concern that they will be driven out of business under the CABHA model. One worry is the requirement that each

CABHA have at least a half-time medical director onsite, depending on clients served – a requirement many small providers say isn't always necessary and that they can't afford.

But, says Brock, even those providers that may be financially able to meet the CABHA criteria will be hard pressed to meet the deadline.

"They can't gear up and hire staff and everything by the deadline to get certified," Brock said.

At the table

"It needs to be modified," Kinnaird said of the CABHA designation. "If they're going to do this, they need to make sure that the small provider that's doing a good job is able to stay in business."

"I want to see everybody at the table and have a chance to really discuss the vision," Brock said. "I'm tired of going through change after change with no real philosophy or thought behind it."

Kinnaird agrees that all concerned parties must be in on the decision-making process."

She said she's hoping the DHHS is "not going to steam ahead without a lot more input and a lot more tinkering" with the specifics of the CABHA model.

"I don't really understand what's behind this," said Brock, "but I know there's no vision behind it."

Woman dies rescuing cat

Malinda Grossman died Saturday night while engaged in an act of kindness. It's the kind of deed Grossman has been known to do her whole life.

Grossman, 60, of Chapel Hill, was hit by a car on Jones Ferry Road in rural Orange County while trying to save a cat who had just been hit by a car.

At approximately 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Grossman was driving home from a holiday party when she saw the injured cat and pulled

over. She then made her way to the middle of the street and was bent over tending to the cat when she was hit. N.C. Highway Patrol officials said she died instantly.

The cat died as well. The driver was not speeding and no charges will be filed.

Grossman was known for helping stray animals and as a kind neighbor. She is survived by her husband, Jan Grossman.



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 JOANRIVERS URAL BARON
 APSO SASHAY MIA INK
 KEPLER AWES ENHANCE
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CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER: Really?

Keith Barwell, on denying an interracial couple a marriage license in Louisiana

Thank You
 from
The Arc of Orange County
 to everyone who participated in our
2nd Annual Festival of Trees Event
 from December 2 - 5!!

Without your support and partnership, The Arc of Orange County would not be successful in the services and programs we offer our community each and every day. Your support during The Festival of Trees as designers, artists, silent auction participants, donors, gift certificate patrons and more makes our agency thrive and makes us able to celebrate 30 years of sustainability in 2010!

Information will be shared in the coming days on the success of The Festival of Trees, vignette bids and ways to get involved for 2010. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you want to learn more about the Arc.

Again, thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you in 2010 at our many events such as The Great Human Race in March, and back again with our 3rd Annual Festival of Trees December 1 - 4!

Pat Richardson, Director of Development
The Arc of Orange County
 208 N. Columbia St., Suite 100, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 919-942-5119, ext 116 • www.arcofororange.org

buy local.

WHERE CAN I FIND MY CITIZEN?

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p>CARRBORO
 Weaver Street Market
 Harris Teeter
 The ArtsCenter
 Amanté Gourmet Pizza
 Milltown
 Carrburritos
 Piedmont Health Services
 Midway Barber Shop
 VisArt Video
 Carolina Fitness
 Looking Glass Café
 Carrboro Business Coop
 Orange County Social Club
 Speakeasy – Greensboro & Main
 Weaver Street Realty
 Carrboro Family Vision
 Century Center
 Great Clips
 Cybrary</p> | <p>Capelli's
 Elmo's Diner
 Spotted Dog
 Nice Price Books
 Carrboro Town Hall
 Carrboro Town Commons
 Cliff's Meat Market
 PTA Thriftshop
 Calvander Food Mart
 Carrboro Mini Mart
 Southern Rail
 Open Eye Cafe
 Carrboro Branch Library
 The Beehive
 Auto Logic
 Reservoir
 Johnny's
 Carolina Cleaners Laundromat (Willow Creek)
 Crescent Green Assisted Living
 Jones Ferry Rd Park & Ride</p> | <p>CARRBORO PLAZA
 Carrboro Plaza Park & Ride
 North American Video
 Tar Heel Tobacco
 Super Suds
 UPS Store
 Curves
 Wingman</p> <p>WHITE CROSS AREA
 Harry's Market
 Fiesta Grill
 White Cross BP
 White Cross Shell
 Express Lane</p> <p>CHAPEL HILL</p> <p>DOWNTOWN
 Caribou Coffee/downtown
 Visitors Center
 Jiffy Lube</p> | <p>Job Development Center
 Sandwhich/The Courtyard
 West Franklin town racks (near Chapel Hill Cleaners)
 Internationalist Books
 Franklin Hotel
 Ham's Restaurant
 Time Out
 East Franklin town racks (near Subway)
 Courthouse Alley town racks
 North Columbia St. town racks (at bus stop)
 UNC Campus
 UNC Student Union
 Bullshead Bookshop
 Davis Library / UNC
 UNC Family Medicine
 Carolina Inn</p> | <p>EAST
 Chapel Hill Post Office/Estes
 Caribou Coffee/
 Franklin at Estes
 Café Driade
 Siena Hotel
 Whole Foods
 Village Plaza
 Borders Books
 Harris Teeter / University Mall
 University Mall / Kerr Drugs
 Phydeaux
 Owen's 501 Diner
 Bruegger's Bagels/Eastgate
 Chapel Hill Public Library
 Food Lion/Ram's Plaza
 Chamber Of Commerce</p> <p>NORTH
 Hunan Chinese Restaurant
 Chapel Hill Senior Center
 Southern Human Services</p> | <p>Carol Woods
 Bagels on the Hill
 Eubanks Rd. Park & Ride
 That Coffee Place
 Cup a Joe
 Margaret's Cantina
 Aquatic Center
 Chapel Hill Mini Mart</p> <p>SOUTH
 N.C. Botanical Garden
 Covenant House
 15-501 South Park & Ride</p> <p>GOVERNOR'S CLUB
 Bean & Barrel/ Governor's Village
 Carolina Meadows/Café Tarantini</p> <p>MEADOWMONT
 UNC Wellness Center
 Brixx Pizza</p> | <p>Cafe Carolina
 The Cedars
 Young Simpson Underwood
 Friday Center Park & Ride
 Courtyard Marriott
 Amanté Pizza – Falconbridge</p> <p>SOUTHERN VILLAGE
 La Vita Dolce
 Park & Ride bus stop
 Market Square</p> <p>FEARRINGTON AREA
 McIntyre's Books
 Fearrington House Inn
 Galloway Ridge</p> <p>HILLSBOROUGH
 Weaver Street Market
 Andy's
 Maple View Farms
 Visitors Center</p> | <p>Orange County Senior Center
 Orange County Public Library
 Cup a Joe / outside box
 Daniel Boone Shopping Center
 Sportsplex
 Durham Tech/student lounge
 UNC Family Medicine</p> <p>PITTSBORO
 Pittsboro General Store
 Suntrust Bank (outside)
 Chatham Marketplace
 Pittsboro Public Library
 Carolina Brewery
 Pittsboro Family Medicine</p> <p>CHATHAM CROSSING
 Torero's Restaurant
 Chatham Crossing Medical Center
 Lowes Foods / outside box</p> |
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★ ★ GUY B. PHILLIPS AND SMITH HONOR ROLLS ★ ★

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School Briefs

Carrboro swim results

On Thursday, Dec. 10 at the Triangle Sportsplex, the Carrboro High School Jaguar swimmers won meets against Raleigh Charter and Cedar Ridge.

The Jaguar women won every event. Winners included the Women's 200 Medley Relay, Emily Tysinger (2)*****, Katie Furey (2), Rosie Scanga, Carrie Hamilton (2), the Women's 200 Freestyle Relay, Claire

Peterman and the Women's 400 Freestyle Relay.

Men's event winners included the Men's 200 Medley Relay, Chris Gondek, Caleb Camp, George Beatty (2), Sam Strosnider, Tyler Oleski and the Men's 400 Freestyle Relay.

New Team Records were set by Emily Tysinger (200 freestyle & 100 backstroke) and Katie Furey (200 IM).

School board meeting

There will be a Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools Board of Education meeting Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. A new and revised high school course proposal will be discussed and decided on as well as a revision to the board calendar. There also will be time allotted to work on the middle school elective course offerings and for the overview of the high school four-year planning process. The award bid for the Carrboro High School Arts Wing also is expected to be approved.

French teacher recognized nationally

Robin McMahon, French teacher at Smith Middle School, had a lesson plan published in the November edition of the National Bulletin of the American Association of Teachers of French.

McMahon's lesson is entitled "Power of the Dream: Martin Luther King Day and Europe Day" and affords students the opportunity to study King's "I Have a Dream" speech in French and to compare and contrast it with the Mission Statement of the European Union. The lesson underscores the fact that both countries value unity.



The lesson was developed in conjunction with a grant McMahon has received from

the European Union for the past two years. The purpose of the grant is to heighten

awareness of the European Union in the U.S.

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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

Holiday Parade



Thousands turned out on a brisk Saturday morning for the annual holiday parade. There was plenty of music, courtesy of local schools, like McDougle Middle's band (above), and the always-upbeat "Heelraiser." That's WCHL's Ron Stutts — a right jolly elf in his own right — waving hello. PHOTOS BY KIRK ROSS

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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

A closer look reveals beauty in a wild aster in winter phase.

FLORA FROM PAGE 1

I recall how back in the fall I cautioned you to take a lighter hand as you "put your garden to bed for the winter." I urged that clumps of tall branching plants and fluffy seed heads be left for winter interest and

for food and cover for birds and other critters. I was at that time more intent on the distant landscape view of nature's winter garden. Now I'm walking up close to discover color and textures not so obvious from a distance, definitely well worth slowing one's pace.

The short walk to and from the mailbox is rewarded by the winter effect of dense wooly seed heads of common goldenrod along my very unkempt driveway. Recalling how I enjoyed the golden plumes of these, possibly my favorite of all wildflowers, weeks ago, I'm appreciating how the fluffy white seed heads rival the earlier bright flower heads.

In stark contrast, on rainy days those same seed heads are barely discernable, because they close tightly when wet. Well, that is logical; for why would a plant expose flight-dependant seed when it is weighted down with moisture?

The drifts of goldenrod seed heads lining the unmowed portions of the highways encircling our town these days seem to be suspended in time, as if to make certain we eventually take notice during our fast-paced travels.

Now I'm wondering what Mother Nature will offer up as alternative to my plan to feature the sparkleberry next week.



Selling Christmas Wreathes, 1966

The camera stops an innocent holiday moment in time, Christmas 1966: A college boy buys a wreath from one of Franklin Street's many "Flower Ladies." The young man is my college roomie, Tom Clark, head of campus ROTC, who would graduate in '67 and go on to serve in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force and later spend his career with Lockheed in Texas until his recent retirement. Selling Tom the Christmas wreath is the venerable Lillie Mozelle Pratt, perhaps the last of the flower ladies — and who, still to this day, can be found huddled against the chill in front of Bank of America selling her wares. The next time you see our venerable "Miz Pratt" tucked away in the lee of the wind, open your wallet and speak a kind word.



A THOUSAND WORDS

BY JOCK LAUTERER

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