

Controversy continues over Jefferson-Pilot development

STACEY VINCENT
staff writer

Guilford College, long known for its serene campus and aesthetic beauty, may soon see some drastic changes. For decades students have been able to enjoy the quiet and seemingly detached landscape of Guilford College. The college, and Greensboro as a whole, stands to lose valuable green space because of the city council's recent decision to rezone Jefferson Pilot's 414+ acre club.

The JP club, which follows along New Garden Rd., just off Guilford College Rd. and stretches along behind the Guilford campus to Jefferson Rd., has been widely considered by the citizens of Greensboro to be invaluable as green space and a wildlife sanctuary.

Dan Poteet, Guilford provost, does not feel that development of the JP club property poses much of a direct threat to Guilford. However, the 40+ acres of Waynick property, which is part of the developer's contract, is directly attached to the campus.

According to Poteet, plans for the Waynick property include a bank, a two and three story apartment complex (with approximately 300 units), and an extended care facility.

Laura O'Toole, a sociology/anthropology professor, who adamantly opposes the development, says "There is something neat about [Guilford] being separated from the rest of the urban environment." She also fears that the newly proposed apartments would draw students off campus and compromise the sense of community that Guilford tries so hard to maintain.

O'Toole has become involved with ob-

taining signatures on petitions organized by a group call G.U.A.R.D. (Greensboro Unites Against Random Development). This group has until the 17th of this month to amass 7,204 signatures from registered voters to be able to force the city council to repeal their decision.

Beyond the direct impact of the Waynick and JP properties' development on the Guilford Campus, there are many other reasons to preserve these lands. Some of the most obvious effects would include: an increase in traffic along all sides, a possible decrease in campus safety (from the influx of people in direct contact with the campus), and a sense of being urbanized by the planned growth and the additional growth to follow.

Greensboro residents have regularly voiced their opinions in the *News and Record*, local news networks, and by their actions and words at the city council meetings.

Clarice Smith, president of GUARD, says "[I am] saddened to think that all of those beautiful woods and meadows will be turned into just another vanilla development."

"This property is one of the last parcels of land suitable for public recreation...we need more parks, not more shopping centers." The pleas of Greensboro residents for more public park lands have long gone unanswered, and there is little doubt that the JP Club is the last suitable tract of land remaining within the city limits.

The JP property also has another important characteristic that makes it worth preserving--its historical quality. This land has changed very little since Lord Cornwallis fought skirmishes here in 1781 while en route to the battle at Guilford Courthouse.

The JP lake is mentioned specifically in the Official Zoning Map: "...with the existing lake to be retained as a water quality facility." But the plan for the JP land also includes 494 single family homes, 456 units of multi-family housing, hotels, office complexes, and a shopping center.

The proposed shopping center alone has caused much controversy. JP attorney John Hopkins claims it will be similar to the Friendly Shopping Center, only smaller and more "upscale."

According to the Official Zoning Map and plans, the "shopping center" will cover "65 acres...650,000 sq. feet...and a maximum height of 50 feet." That would make it slightly larger, and one story taller than the Carolina Circle Mall.

O'Toole brings to light possibly the most haunting issue of all--preserving green space for today's children and tomorrow's generations to come. O'Toole said that one of the main reasons she became involved with GUARD, and the signing of the petitions, is so that she can represent her son.

O'Toole says, "[my son] has always fantasized about, and had an interest in that land [JP's], he has heard about the lake that is supposed to be back there and has always wanted to see it."

INTERESTED IN SIGNING THE PETITION, REGISTERING TO VOTE, OR LENDING A HAND?

CONTACT:

Laura O'Toole
ARCHDALE 212

Stacey Vincent
274-0830, 643-7642
OR CCE MAILBOX

Clarice Smith
(G.U.A.R.D.)
5505 ROBINRIDGE RD.
GREENSBORO, NC 27410
855-3338

KEEP AN EYE OUT, TOO!

Watkins taking well to new position

DAMIAN DEBELLO
staff writer

This year, Guilford welcomes a new Director of Student Activities, Dawn Watkins. She fills the post vacated when Michael West resigned his position late last school year.

Watkins worked in the past for Guilford in the Center for Continuing Education department, but is excited with her new position.

"My job is to look at the quality of life for students and how facilities for them are being used. I think it's the most fun job on campus," said Watkins.

She feels that the student activities role brings this "fun" to the students, which in turn brings together the community.

One of Watkins' main goals is to battle the all-too common complaint--that there's nothing to do. To battle this problem, she has created "The MAG (Month at Guilford)", which will list all events offered to students over the month. It will be posted all over campus.

As for right now, Watkins is busy at work



Dawn Watkins

planning such events as Family Weekend, Homecoming, and the Inauguration of new president Dan McNemar. She also keeps strong ties with UNION, making sure there are many events, and that they are "balanced out".

Despite these responsibilities, Watkins insists she is there for everyone.

"There are so many organizations. I want to use my office as a funnel."

FREE POSTAGE STAMPS!

That's Right! FREE!

You Buy a Regularly Priced Greeting Card,
We GIVE You a Stamp. FREE.

You Buy a Regularly Priced Post Card,
We GIVE You a Stamp. FREE.

- Bienfang Note Sketch Book (8 1/2 x 11) reg. \$7.25 SALE \$5.00
- Paper Address Book.....reg. \$5.75 SALE \$3.00
- Cloth Bound Journal w/ Lined Pages....reg. \$6.95 SALE \$5.00
- Guilford College Plaid Legal Pad Cover reg. \$12.95 SALE \$8.00

PLUS Selections of Discontinued Greeting Cards 2 for \$1.00, Post Cards 4 for \$1.00, and Pens (various styles) at special prices. **Hurry! Sale Ends Friday, Sept. 20.**

WRITE YOUR MAMA!



The Guilford College Bookstore

Founders Hall • Open Every Wed & Thurs to 8:00 otherwise, 9-5
Call us at 316-2156 • E-mail us at: Bookstore@Rascal.Guilford.Edu