

Town Museum Requests New Zoning Designation

The Chapel Hill Museum asked the Town Council to approve a change that would allow more funding.

By SARAH JUREK
Staff Writer

A lack of funds prompted Chapel Hill Museum officials to petition the Chapel Hill Town Council for a new designation for the museum.

The council received information about the museum's plight at its meeting Monday night.

A petition asked that the Chapel Hill Museum's classification be changed from a public use facility to a public cultural facility.

"Town staff approached us and said we need to petition the council if we were going to have fund-raisers," said Peggy Pollitzer, board chairwoman.

The petition, submitted Aug. 23, stated that museum officials were interested in providing additional uses not allowed under a public use facility classification.

If the museum is designated as a public cultural facility, it can lawfully

rent space for special events. In order to increase funds, the museum officials say they want to offer space to rent for weddings and receptions, meeting space for private organizations and classroom accommodations.

Under the Chapel Hill Development Ordinance, a public cultural facility is defined as the use of land, buildings, or structures by the government to provide cultural services to the public.

The museum is a nonprofit organization that depends on donations and its nearly 400 memberships for funds.

"The board is taking an active role in raising funds," Pollitzer said. "We are trying to keep money going. We have no ongoing funds."

Town Council members said they were enthusiastic about passing the petition.

"I think the museum needs to be declared a public cultural facility and certainly needs to get fund-raising," Council Member Flicka Bateman said. "I think it would be nice for them to get the funding they need from some other sources."

Town Council member Lee Pavao said the museum served an important role in the presentation of Chapel Hill's

history. "A museum serves two roles," Pavao said. "A museum, one, serves in the presentation of the history of Chapel Hill. Two, the museum makes history available to Chapel Hill in exhibit formation."

Town reports stated that property owners in a 1,000-foot radius from the museum would be notified of a public forum to be held at the Sept. 27 meeting.

"There are certain regulations in residential zoning where you can't do certain events because they are disruptive to the neighborhood," Pavao said. "They are asking to be considered a public cultural facility. That way they can hold fund-raisers."

Some Town Council members say they expect to hear positive comments from the public at the forum. Pavao said the council might vote on the museum issue at its next meeting.

"I think, essentially, that this is important to us for the museum's future," Pollitzer said. "We have gotten good support, but at this point, we are needing approval."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Town Turns Attention to Trees

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen approved a program that supports local children who plant trees.

By AMANDA COOK
Staff Writer

Children will soon have the chance to leave a lasting mark on Carrboro by participating in a town-supported "Adopt a Tree" program.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen unanimously passed a proposal Tuesday that calls for the town to support the tree-planting program.

Chris Gerry, landscape and grounds supervisor for Carrboro, said the program furthered Carrboro's commitment to its title as a "Tree City."

The initiative also aims to educate people, especially children, about the environmental and visual benefits of planting trees.

"It's a good way to get environmental concerns to children," Gerry said.

The "Adopt a Tree" program focuses

on the children of Carrboro who can adopt the trees and plant them with the assistance of a parent or guardian in their own front yards.

The program provides \$2,500 in funding for local residents to plant the trees.

The funding will be provided through private donations. The parents and children will work together to care for the trees, Gerry said.

"This on-going care project for the child would show how trees provide a lessening of the need for energy in the community," Gerry said.

The program also educates children about the chemical process of photosynthesis using hardwood trees, primarily oaks and maples.

The beginning of prime tree-planting season will be emphasized by an opening ceremony on the front lawn of town hall in October 2000.

"It will be a small ceremony, similar to the one on Arbor Day, for the children and their parent or parents or guardian," Gerry said.

"Each child at this ceremony would be given a certificate recognizing the

child as a primary caregiver." Alderman Allen Spalt said the program would be well-received in the community.

"Lots of businesses and individuals can contribute to make (the program) into a community project," Spalt said.

Gerry said most of the funding would be provided through private sponsors. "All sponsors would be given some form of recognition," he said.

Carrboro Town Manager Robert Morgan said he didn't want public money to go toward a private project, but would support using the money for a public program.

"(A potential public program) could be adopted to also create a canopy of trees above the smaller trees along the streets which don't live as long," Morgan said.

Mayor Mike Nelson said he was enthusiastic about the project.

"This is a great project ... and I appreciate the work public works has put into it."

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School Board Lawsuit Moves Ahead

By RYAN STEWART
Staff Writer

A lawsuit that pits the right to privacy against the right to information is moving forward in Orange County.

The suit, which has a research deadline of Sept. 20, was filed by The News & Observer of Raleigh and the Chapel Hill News against the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education and the Carrboro Police Department.

Amanda Martin, the N&O's attorney, said information released on an investigation into a McDougle Middle School teacher's conduct was insufficient under the law.

"What they received did not meet the law's requirement," she said. "There are two ways that the law has been broken."

Martin said the issues involved in this situation had been addressed by previous cases, and the plaintiffs were seeking injunctions from the courts.

McDougle teacher Ray Fredrick, who has taught at the school since 1995, was investigated by Carrboro police after information suggested that he might have taken indecent liberties with minors on a girls' jump-rope team he coached.

"Any document created by a public institution is public record. But there are exceptions - this is one of them."

JOHN MCCORMICK
School Board Attorney

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools spokeswoman Kim Hoke said the newspapers wanted information contained in a personnel file, which is protected under state law.

Although the plaintiffs are not seeking the identity of minors involved, Hoke said it was not acceptable to allow the privacy of Fredrick to be invaded.

"The school board is arguing for the right to privacy of the coach and his family," Hoke said.

On Sept. 2, Chapel Hill-Carrboro school officials stated that the evidence against Fredrick was insufficient to move forward.

Hoke said Fredrick has since been reinstated to his teaching position, although the Bouncing Bulldogs, a non-sponsored jump-rope team he coaches,

was no longer allowed to practice on the McDougle campus. The team has continued to practice elsewhere.

The school board's attorney John McCormick said the law did not require that information be released in this manner.

"The judge has heard arguments from both sides," McCormick said. "He asked the attorneys to state their case in writing."

He said the proceedings would be reconvened after research conducted by attorneys from both sides was presented Sept. 20.

"Any document created by a public institution is public record," McCormick said.

"But there are exceptions - this is one of them."

McCormick said there were other ways for interested parties to get information on this issue besides gaining access to the school's personnel files, which would violate Fredrick's privacy.

"If they have questions for Mr. Fredrick, they can make an appointment and go talk to him."

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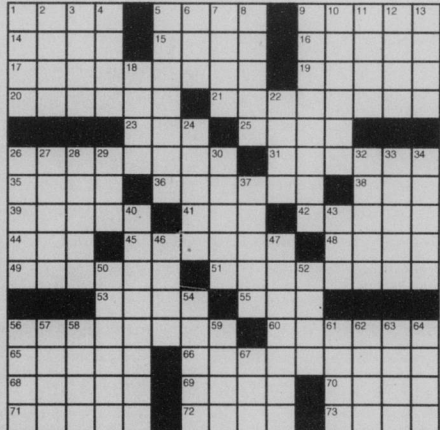
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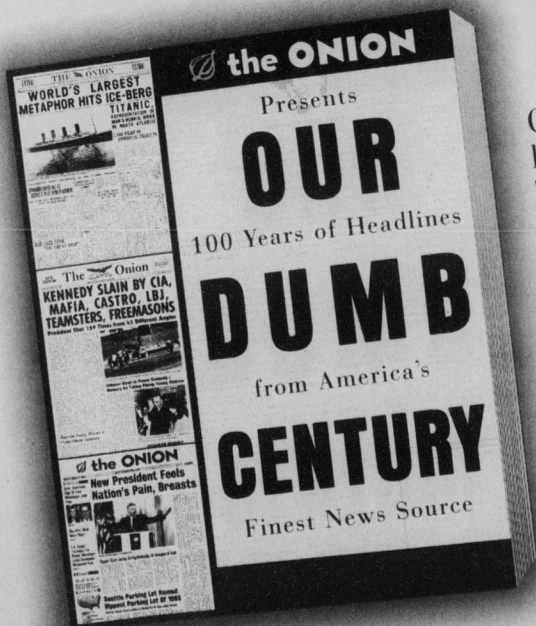
By Alan P. Olschwang

- ACROSS: 1 Carson's predecessor, 5 The ___ on the Floss, 9 Frown, 14 USC rival, 15 Jai, 16 The king of France, 17 Easily removed ties, 19 Goddess of peace, 20 Anglo-Saxon kingdom, 21 Heavenly band members?, 23 Media business grp., 25 Gullible dupes, 26 Loss of traction, 31 Ogle, 35 Nobel winner Morrison, 36 More concise, 38 Bird from Down Under, 39 Borders, 41 Something to pick?, 42 "Lady of ___", 44 Conceit, 45 Type of sail, 48 Skin problem, 49 Sell direct, 51 Careless, 53 Joyride, 55 Last queen of Spain, 56 Copies, 60 Weasel's kin, 65 Tendon, 66 Furniture protector, 68 Structure starter?, 69 Actress Garr, 70 Meager, 71 Rock-strewn, 72 Graceful bird, 73 Art patron of Ferrara, 4 Knocks lightly, 5 Tailless feline, 6 Worldwide workers' grp., 7 Strip of a lattice, 8 Alther and Kudrow, 9 Indoor footwear, 10 Purplish red, 11 Mineral deposits, 12 Customary practice, 13 Whoppers, 18 Jack or Jeremy, 22 Death rattle, 24 Go-between, 26 Guide, 27 Rustic inn, 28 Mass of metal, 29 Object in the sky?, 30 Iroquois tribe, 32 Stick 'em up!, 33 ___ acids, 34 Put into proper pitch, 37 Memorial monument, 40 Cut and run, 43 Faux, 46 Landed, 47 Spare target, perhaps, 50 Away from the bow, 52 French greensward, 54 Leaf homes, 56 Sister of Osiris, 57 Julep garnish, 58 Scuttlebutt, 43 Faux, 59 Offed, 61 Sleeper spy, 62 Currier and ___, 63 Fastidious, 64 Coastal bird, 67 One Gershwin



SPELL SPUN FALA
ALGAE CAPE ICON
LEANS OPTS SHIN
TANGLEFOOT HERE
INFO ELIDES
ADOBES SIREN
GURU UTES AGLOW
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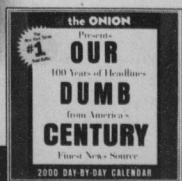


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