

Carrboro Deemed Friendly for Cyclists



Asheville native Ralph Grizzle, who has traveled nationwide on his bicycle, was in town Thursday for a book signing.

By Heather Apple
Staff Writer

A national bicyclist organization has declared Carrboro a bicycle-friendly community, marking the first time any town in North Carolina has received the distinction.

Representatives of the League of American Bicyclists, a lobbying group of more than 30,000 bicyclists nationwide, said Carrboro received the honor because of the town's continued efforts to promote bicycling as a viable form of transportation, exercise and fun.

"Our purpose is to increase awareness and acceptance of bicycling," said Anthony Yoder, program manager at the League of American Bicyclists.

"The program serves as an avenue to recognize communities that do good work and to encourage communities to improve."

Carrboro Board of Alderman member Jacquelyn Gist said she thinks the distinction is well-deserved.

"I think that we make a conscious effort to be bike-friendly," Gist said. "We work really hard at having bike paths. We don't have nearly as many as we want yet, but we surely have them."

According to the league's Web site, for a town to be named a bicycle-friendly community, it must have streets that are safe for bicycles, a government staff member who is responsible for bicycle coordination and a citizens advisory committee.

Alderman Joal Broun said she feels that Carrboro has made a lot of effort to promote bicycles.

"We have bike lanes. We have bike trails all over Carrboro, and we just emphasize biking and walking."

Joal Broun
Carrboro Alderman

"We have bike lanes. We have bike trails all over Carrboro, and we just emphasize biking and walking," Broun said. "We emphasize the construction of bike lanes on our connector roads and on our streets."

Alderman Diana McDuffee said Carrboro has implemented regulations to ensure the inclusion of bike lanes on certain streets.

"We require bike lanes on new streets that are built in Carrboro," McDuffee said.

Gist said the town provides places to park bikes and trails for bicyclists, such as the ones that run near Bolin Creek.

Broun said the Performance Bicycle Shop, located on East Main Street in Carrboro, also promotes bicycling in the community.

"I think it also helps because a lot of people frequent that shop," Broun said. "People gather there to do Saturday and Sunday rides."

Some aldermen say receiving the bicycle-friendly community distinction parallels Carrboro's plans for the future, specifically Vision 2020.

"It really goes hand in hand with the Vision 2020 because the Vision 2020 emphasizes conductivity," Broun said.

Vision 2020 is a comprehensive plan for growth in Carrboro during the next 20 years, including plans for increased pedestrian awareness and alternative modes of transportation.

McDuffee said, "I think that we're very interested in being a pedestrian-friendly community."

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

Officials Deny Request For Land-Use Hearing

Carrboro officials rejected a resident's proposal because of concerns about setting a precedent for construction.

By Jocelyn Oberdick
Staff Writer

Carrboro officials denied a resident's request Tuesday for a public hearing about his proposed amendments to the town's land use ordinance.

Christopher Conover, of 124 Winsome Lane in Carrboro, submitted the request to the Carrboro Board of Alderman in August after he found out he could not build a barn on his property for his horse Tru.

But without a revision to the town's existing ordinance, building the barn would push Conover over his legal limit for construction on his watershed property near University Lake.

Under the current land-use ordinance, watershed property owners like Conover can only have impervious surfaces — like asphalt driveways — on 4 percent of their land.

Conover's proposed revision would

have allowed property owners who have already reached their 4 percent limit to buy extra impervious surface from other property owners who have not reached their land use capacity.

"This would give property owners more flexibility to acquire needed impervious surface," Conover stated in his amendment request.

But some aldermen say the proposed changes would have set a bad example.

Alderman Diana McDuffee said the board did not want to maximize the pollution output.

McDuffee said having the limit on impervious surfaces prevents excessive pollution of the water-flow into University Lake.

She also said approving the revision would send numerous people searching for extra percentage points.

"I'm concerned about the precedent it sets," McDuffee said.

"We are not interested in having 4 percent impervious surfaces — we are interested in having less than 4 percent."

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SURVEY

From Page 1

respondents, at 29 percent, said "definitely not" to the program compared to the 25 percent that said "definitely yes."

While 31 percent of faculty in the business school answered "definitely not," 31 percent responded with "definitely yes."

Despite the mixed message of these results, Faculty Council Chairwoman Sue Estroff said she is not at all surprised by the results of the survey. "This survey basically confirms for us what we already knew," Estroff said. "It is still not clear whether we have a definitive take on the issue."

Business Professor Jennifer Conrad, who attended the trip to Qatar, said she believes the survey might help Chancellor James Moeser form an opinion on the issue but thinks that more could be done.

"In the end, it will be the chancellor's decision, and how he interprets the information provided by the survey," she said.

"But I think (the survey) is not the only way to collect the reactions of the faculty."

In total, almost 98 percent of the trip participants responded to the survey, while only 33 percent of faculty from both the College of Arts and Sciences and the business school responded.

Estroff said she expected such results. "I am not surprised that more people who went on the trip responded and responded positively because actually going to Qatar was able to make participants more supportive," Estroff said.

Estroff said she believes that the survey's findings will help influence the decision. "How wide or how deep faculty reluctance or acceptance of the program is will have an impact on the decision," she said. "To me, in order to go ahead, one would like to have a critical mass of enthusiasm and participation. What the Qataris want is our faculty, so if we have no faculty support there is no deal."

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ATTACK

From Page 1

birthplace, Kandahar, opposition leader Hamid Karzai said his sources told him there was "turmoil" in the city; other sources said local Pashtun tribesmen had surrounded the city.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were spurts of fighting near the city center as the Pashtun fighters advanced. Most of Kandahar province, outside of the city, is in the hands of anti-Taliban rebels, he said.

Gen. Tom Franks, the U.S. commander of the Afghanistan campaign, said American special forces were operating near Kandahar. Inside the city, Franks said, "we do see signs of some fracturing" within the Taliban ranks. Pashtuns are Afghanistan's largest ethnic group,

and served as the backbone of the Taliban's harsh five-year regime.

Pakistan strengthened its border defenses closest to Kandahar with tanks and extra troops, worried that unrest — and bin Laden supporters — could spill across the frontier.

In other developments: ■ Eight international aid workers arrested three months ago for preaching Christianity in Afghanistan were reported in good condition in Pakistan after being carried to safety by U.S. special forces. The women in the group, including two Americans, signaled to their rescuers by burning the body-covering burqas they had been forced to wear.

■ U.S. Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge confirmed that documents that would be helpful in making a nuclear device were found in a building in Kabul, described as an al-Qaida safe house.

TUITION

From Page 1

resentation focused were new faculty recruitment and faculty-student ratios. He said UNC's student-faculty ratio is at about 21 students per faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences, which is far above the goal of 15 students per faculty member.

Shelton also said that despite gains, UNC still was not competitive with its peers in terms of faculty salaries and was likely to fall further behind because of state budget problems. "Certainly we feel that the single most important factor in maintaining Carolina's excellent experience for undergraduates is the presence of high-quality faculty," he said.

Shelton also stressed throughout his presentation that although the average

income of UNC students' families indicated an ability to pay more, any increase would need to be accompanied by sufficient student aid.

Moeser commended Shelton on his presentation, saying he felt faculty-related issues were critically in need of funding. "If you want to build a case (for a tuition increase) on campus, that may be an argument," he said. "It shouldn't be faculty salaries alone this year — there are other quality issues, such as the faculty-student ratio and the number of faculty."

He also said he wanted to make sure any tuition increase did not unfairly target out-of-state students.

"We need to be a university with that kind of diversity — cultural, national and international — we need to be careful not to ratchet up out-of-state tuition to the point where it becomes prohibitive."

But some trustees expressed reserva-

tions, especially about the context in which the proposal might be framed.

"The University has a long history of low tuition, and it is an important part of its tradition," said trustee Paul Fulton. "It's very dangerous for us to begin to compare with average numbers at other schools. We need to remember where we came from and use tuition to improve the quality of undergraduate education on campus."

Young also said he wants to be convinced of a specific need at UNC that an increase would fund. "It is important to look at the detailed need — how much money you are looking for, what you want out of this and if tuition is a way to solve this," he said.

Trustee Stick Williams said he is open-minded about an upcoming proposal, but he thought the main goal of the committee would be to find a need and explain it clearly to the University community. "I want to always be as clear as possible to spell out and show the financial impact to students and their families."

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QATAR

From Page 1

10 years will cost about \$750 million.

In 1998 UVa. researched the creation of a college in Qatar, but potential accreditation problems from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools stopped further progress.


Louise Dudley, UVa. assistant vice president of university relations, said the school was approached by the Qatar Foundation. "It seemed ... in line with the mission of the founding of the university."

She said the Qatar campus had the potential to create more educational opportunities for women.

Despite these praises, UVa. School of Law Professor Peter Low said accreditation problems could have been solved.

He said language barriers, attracting students and recruiting educators were the main difficulties. "It was a very complicated situation," he said. "It was just something ... that didn't sort out."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.



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