

# Council restricts Elliot's Nest parking

By ANNE-MARIE DOWNEY  
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted Monday to restrict parking in the area around Elliot's Nest, a recently closed town night spot which has come under fire from Graham Street residents who claim the club disrupts their neighborhood.

Following the recommendation of Town Manager Gene Shipman, and a petition from South Graham Street residents, the council voted 6-0 to prohibit parking on South Graham Street, South Roberson Street and Cameron Avenue between Graham and Roberson streets 10 p.m.-6 a.m. daily.

Elliot's Nest closed last week after the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board denied the club a permit to sell beer and wine, at the request of Graham Street residents. Owner Tony Gore said he would appeal the ABC decision.

Town Council member Joe Straley said he questioned how the town would enforce the restriction.

"You won't know which cars are associated with Elliot's Nest and which are associated with the church (the second Baptist Church on Graham Street) until 10 p.m.," Straley said. "We are going to have a big ticket operation going, aren't we?"

Town Council member Jonathan Howes said he was not sure the town should take action now that the club is closed.

"If the license (ABC permit) for Elliot's Nest is not granted, the residents might rethink the action," Howes said. "If Elliot's is no longer open they might like to have the parking back."

In other action, the council members accepted a recommendation from Shipman to eliminate the position of special assistant to the manager from the town staff.

The position, created last summer, was offered to Fire Chief Everett Lloyd, who refused it. A job opening has never been advertised. Lloyd has been a

controversial figure in the debate about the Public Safety Officer program, which is opposed by town firemen.

The council members also informally agreed not to proceed with plans to hold a bond referendum in May for the acquisition of open space land.

In September, the council authorized a study of open space, or undeveloped, land, with instructions that the study would be the basis for a May referendum.

Mayor Joe Nassif said, "I don't anticipate myself voting for a referendum in the spring...especially when there's not a snowball's chance in hell for it passing, given (the expected) tax increase."

In other action, the town staff presented a recommendation to amend the comprehensive plan to prohibit all drive-in windows. The plan to prevent scattered development and to encourage energy conservation by restricting automobile use, outlines long-range

## Bus ridership increases

By PAT FLANNERY  
Staff Writer

Bus ridership in Chapel Hill in December 1979 was greater than in December 1978 and new buses are on order to accommodate the increase, Chapel Hill Transportation Director Bob Godding said Monday.

Statistics for December 1979 showed an increase of more than 5,000 riders, up from 122,860 in December 1978 to 127,624 in December 1979.

"It is a trend that has started and will continue," said Bill Callahan, the town's assistant transportation director. "However, we may not see direct signs of increase because we are almost operating at our capacity."

A slight drop in ridership did occur on the U and S routes for November and December 1979, but Callahan blamed unseasonably warm weather and an S route change for the decrease.

Callahan attributed the overall increase to "continued pressure from gas prices, improved services on our part...and the continued decline in



Jonathan Howes

growth and development goals for Chapel Hill.

After an hour-long discussion, the council rejected the amendment. In its next vote, however, the council refused to approve a request to build a drive-in photo booth at Kroger Plaza. The council decided to delay action on the request until the town completes its zoning ordinance rewrite, which will address the issue of drive-in windows.

parking spaces." Accelerated development within Chapel Hill is also having an effect on ridership, he said.

As a result of the increase in bus use, the city has ordered 16 new buses to be delivered by early December. Godding said, however, that there is a chance the buses may be delivered earlier.

Federal funds will pay 80 percent of the cost of the new buses, while state and local funds will each pay 10 percent. The total cost will be an estimated \$2.2 million.

In addition, the town has applied for a grant to help buy eight more buses, but Godding said final approval is still needed.

To aid in bus service operation costs, especially rising fuel prices, the town has also applied for a grant under the Service Transportation Act, which will pay 50 percent of the bus service's net operation costs. Callahan said the grant would be retroactive, covering costs incurred from Oct. 1, 1979 to Sept. 1, 1980.

# Hackney to run for House seat

By ANNE-MARIE DOWNEY  
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill lawyer Joe Hackney announced Tuesday that he is entering the Democratic race for the state House of Representatives from the 17th district.

Hackney joins incumbent Trish Hunt of Chapel Hill and Carrboro realtor Wallace Kaufman in the Democratic primary contest for the two local House seats. Democratic incumbent Rep. Ed Holmes of Pittsboro announced last week he would not seek re-election. Chapel Hill Republican James S. Blair also is seeking a House seat.

The 17th district includes both Chatham and Orange counties and Holmes said he hoped his successor would be from Chatham County. Historically, one seat has gone to a Chatham resident and the other to an Orange County resident. But Hackney said he thought he could serve both Orange and Chatham counties effectively even though he is a resident of Chapel Hill. Hackney was born in Siler City and grew up in Chatham County.

"The people in Chatham County are very University-oriented and people in Chatham benefit from jobs in Orange County," Hackney said. "Chatham and Orange have been very close over

the years and I would expect that to continue." Hackney added: "I would not run without substantial support from Chatham County. I feel I have the support of the political leadership in Chatham County."

Hackney said his bid in the Democratic primary is not an attempt to unseat Hunt.

In his prepared statement Hackney said, "I hope to become, in time, an effective friend of the University in the General Assembly, in the tradition of Ike Andrews, Ed Holmes and Trish Hunt."

Hackney also said if elected he would concentrate on legislative efforts to overhaul the state criminal law, to enact environmental programs, to improve the prison system and to examine the problem of domestic violence, which is his legal specialty. Hackney said he also had a long-standing commitment to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Hackney, 34, is a partner in the law firm of Epting, Hackney and Long. He received his law degree from the University in 1970 and served as assistant district attorney for both Orange and Chatham counties from 1971 to 1974. He is a member of the board of directors of the Joint Orange and Chatham Community Action Agency.



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