

Aldermen select development projects

By DOUG TATE
Staff Writer

At a public hearing Thursday night, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen selected two development projects — a light industrial park and a retail center — as part of a downtown revitalization plan.

The projects were outlined by consultant Vernon George of Hammer, Siler, George Associates of Washington, a market consulting firm hired by the Board in May.

About 60 people turned out for the public hearing to voice their concern and to ask questions about the proposed projects. Many citizens commented on the social effects of the proposed development.

George presented five projects for the Board's consideration. The projects outlined "have the best chance of moving

ahead without any great problems," George said, adding that Carrboro was a "healthy area with great potential."

The retail center project would be located on Main Street across from Carr Mill Mall and would have about 20,000 square feet of office space and 12,000 square feet of retail space. A one-story parking deck behind the center has been proposed and would utilize funds from an Urban Development Action Grant. The grant, if secured, could make parking free to the public.

The Corporate Center, a proposed light industrial park, would be located east of North Greensboro Street. The park would be developed in phases and will be suitable for office space, light assembly and chemical industries.

Roy Williford, chairman of the Carrboro Planning Board, said that the next step would be for the consulting firm to

draw up a package on both projects and start contacting developers. George said that there was developer interest in all five projects.

George was hired by the Board to come up with a marketing study for the revitalization of downtown Carrboro.

Alderman Steve Rose said that development of the projects could start immediately and that none of the sites would have to be rezoned.

Other projects considered by the Board included Town Hall Square, a 27-unit townhouse project for young Chapel Hill and Carrboro professionals located on the athletic field next to Town Hall. Town Grove, a condominium apartment project for sales and rentals targeted to UNC students, was proposed along Maple Street. Carr Mill Office Building was proposed to emphasize the commercial development of downtown.

Proposed parking deck might solve town's shortage

By REBEKAH WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill's parking shortage may soon be solved by the construction of a proposed four-level parking deck with 440 parking spaces, said Mike Jennings, director of the Chapel Hill Planning Department.

The Town Council has been deliberating over the parking deck project as a solution to the overcrowded parking in downtown Chapel Hill.

"The staff is preparing a request for the (parking deck) proposal," said Sonna Loewenthal, assistant town manager for Chapel Hill.

Loewenthal said a consensus on details had not been reached. The issue of the overcrowding in municipal parking lots on Rosemary Street has struck up controversy throughout Chapel Hill since 1978.

"It gets worse every year," said Jasper W. Allen, a Chapel Hill parking attendant for eight and one-half years.

Allen said the municipal lots stay full from 9:15 a.m. till around 2:30 p.m. Since 1978, different measures have been considered and debated by the Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce and The Downtown Chapel Hill Association.

The Planning Board previously considered financing the project through revenue bonds but decided to turn to ownership by private developers.

The Planning Board plans to take offers from private developers to take over construction and financing of the parking deck — a project estimated to cost \$3.5 million. Jennings said several private developers had expressed interest in the project.

Parking rates for the town's municipal lots increased on August 1. There are hopes that the new rates will discourage long-term parking and that the price will be more convenient for short-term parkers. Current day rates are 50 cents an hour, and night rates stand at \$1 after 7 p.m. for the night.

Before Aug. 1, the parking rate for municipal lots was 25 cents per hour.

The Planning Board is suggesting the placement of a building on top of the proposed parking deck. This would be one way to combat the concern of citizens that a deck would appear unattractive and overpower town stores.

The parking deck project would be completed within seven to nine months once construction started. The deck would be located on the corner of Rosemary and Henderson streets, where a municipal parking lot is now located.

10,000 calls last year

Helpline gives phone counseling

By TRACY ADAMS
Staff Writer

You failed your first exam. Your boyfriend broke off a five-year relationship and your parents have indefinitely suspended your allowance. It's too much to handle, you say.

But wait, there are people who care and they're only a phone call away.

Helpline, the telephone crisis counseling program in Chapel Hill, is beginning its fifth year of operation. It is operated by the Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health Center and serves people in the three-county area.

Volunteer counselors offer information, referrals and counseling to callers of all ages. People call with an enormous range of problems, and a significant proportion of the callers are students, said Tim Williams, the Center's emergency services coordinator. The problems most frequently concern relationship troubles, alcohol abuse and domestic violence, Williams said.

"The last few months we have gotten more calls from folks having a hard time because they can't find work," Williams added.

Callers can remain anonymous, and all information is kept confidential. "We basically try to help them (callers) deal with the way they're feeling," Williams said.

No particular pattern of calls has been established since the program's inception. However, there is a slight increase in calls during holidays, exams and the beginning of the school year, Williams said. In the year ending June 30, more than 10,000 calls were made to the 24-hour service.

UNC students constitute more than one-third of the program's counselors. All counselors must complete a 37-hour training program that stresses communication skills, crisis intervention, mental health issues, sexuality, alcohol and drug abuse.

Lynsley Rollins, a senior journalism and English major, has been a Helpline counselor for a year.

Rollins, of Birmingham, Ala., had called Helpline when she had boyfriend problems. "I felt better when I hung up the phone," Rollins said. "Later, I felt I needed to do something that would help other people."

Rollins said callers' problems ranged from a woman whose cat was stuck in a tree to rapes and potential suicides.

A new training program will begin Sept. 20. "Volunteers must be at least 18 years old," said Marilyn Ghezzi, Helpline's volunteer coordinator. But they do not need to have counseling experience. They must be willing to make a commitment to work with Helpline for at least six months after the training. Anyone interested should call Helpline at 929-0479.

Companies fine illegal use of cable TV

By KATHERINE SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

There is a wave of crime in the air-and it can get you 30 days in jail.

Tampering with your cable system to obtain free services is now a misdemeanor under state and local law.

The Town of Chapel Hill has a cable TV ordinance regarding theft of cable services, and Village Cable, holder of the local cable franchise, can automatically fine offenders \$250 for violations of the subscriber agreement, said Jim Heavner, president of Village Companies, Inc., parent company of Village Cable.

Allen Levy, a representative for Home Box Office, said, "Many people think that they are not breaking the law by accidentally receiving the cable signals, but they are because they are not paying

customers."

"We recommend that those who do pick up cable signals illegally call their cable operator and become a subscriber," said Levy. "Those who contact their operator will not be prosecuted."

Tampering with a cable converter is a more serious violation and can result in fines exceeding \$400. The converter is a small box that enables subscribers to pick up other cable and premium channels, such as HBO and Showtime. Premium channels are those that are available at an extra charge, beyond the regular cable services.

"Because we are not allowed to sell these converters or charge for their use, we must insure that they are kept in proper working condition," Heavner said. "There is an automatic \$250 fine for converters that are damaged or have been

tampered with."

Heavner said approximately two out of three violations are committed by students. "It is a very serious violation of the law, and we do prosecute offenders," he said.

Levy said that HBO scrambles their satellite signals and that scrambling devices are also used by local cable operators.

"Illegal users of cable services can be detected by using a computer printout and then checking addresses and our wiring charts," Levy said. "It is painstaking, but it is worth the time because it cuts the loss of revenue to non-subscribers."

"Across the nation, cable companies are losing tens of millions of dollars to illegal users each year," Levy said. "If it continues, cable operator cannot keep providing new channels and services."

Announcements

People planning to run for election to the Chapel Hill Town Council or the Carrboro Board of Aldermen must file with the Orange County Election Board some time between Sept. 16 at noon and Oct. 7 at noon. Elections will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

In Chapel Hill, voters will elect a mayor and four council members. Four seats are also up for election on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education. In addition, Chapel Hill voters will elect three members to the Dogwood Acre Sanitary District Board of Supervisors.

In Carrboro, voters will elect a mayor and three aldermen. Hillsborough voters will elect a mayor and three commissioners.

People planning to file for county offices must pay a registration fee. Fees range from \$5 for Chapel Hill Town Council candidates to \$15 for Carrboro mayoral candidates.

—BETH OWNLEY

North Carolina business and media leaders will meet at 7 p.m. today in the Great Hall of the Carolina Union to debate questions of news priorities, corporate responsibility, ethics, competence and fairness in business news. Included among the participants in the unrehearsed panel dialogue are Kenneth Clark, a Duke Power Co. vice president; Joseph Doster, publisher of *The Winston-Salem Journal*.

OWASA From page 1

Residents of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area have been asked to conserve water. Mandatory restrictions have been imposed by the Orange Water and Sewer Authority to curtail the amount of water being pumped from University Lake.

OWASA imposed moderate mandatory restrictions when the lake level dropped 48 inches below capacity. If the level drops to 72 inches below full, OWASA can ask for severe mandatory restrictions by declaring a water shortage emergency.

In an effort to make students more conscious of their water consumption, *The Daily Tar Heel* will publish daily the current lake level and the previous day's consumption.

OWASA officials are aiming to reduce water consumption immediately by 25 percent.

Lebanon From page 1

On the ABC television program *This Week With David Brinkley* — shown in the United States on Sunday — Jumbhatt said "I don't want to overthrow the Lebanese government. And I don't want to establish a new ruler in Lebanon. All I want is peace and political compromise."

Diplomatic efforts to end the Beirut fighting continued in Damascus, but the Lebanese Central News Agency reported Saudi Arabian mediators may freeze the talks after rejecting Syrian proposals.

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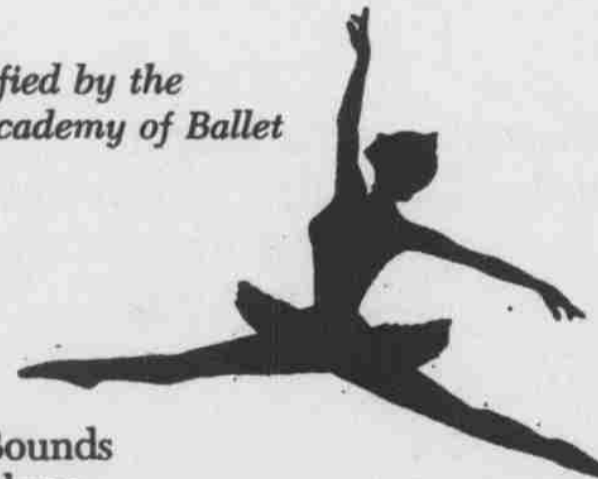
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