

Center for elderly gets the green light

By MITRA LOTFI
Staff Writer

Charles House Associates, a private, non-profit corporation, will be building an adult day-care center for the elderly in Carrboro, President Bettie Bradford said last week.

The group's proposition was unanimously approved by the Carrboro Planning Board last Thursday, although some details have not been finalized.

"I think we need more of this type of resource in Carrboro," board chairman Andrew Dobelstein said.

The center will be located in an addition to a house that the Associates bought, at the end of Hillcrest Avenue behind Estes Park Apartments.

"It's not too far away so they (the members) can get lost, but it's far enough so they aren't in danger of traffic," board member Diana Woolley said.

North Carolina adult-care standards require at least one staff person for every eight elderly persons.

"We think that's a little low, so we'll probably have three or four on our staff," Bradford said.

The group will be taking in just 16 people at a time to promote a small, home atmosphere, she

said. Although it is a day-care facility, residents will be those with some level of autonomy, such as the ability to maintain personal hygiene.

"We will have a van and we expect most people to come on that or be driven by family," Bradford said.

Initially, the board questioned whether the center was permissible under the "day-care facility" category specified in Carrboro's land-use plan but decided it could be built without a variance or amendment to that definition.

Charles House Associates was formed two years ago. "We've classified it as a public charity based on how much support it receives from its own endowment and how much it receives from the public," Director Richard Snyder said.

The group hopes to receive one-third of the cost of the facility from public donations and provide two-thirds from its own funds.

House Associates will start out charging a fee for the day-care service, but "if we get enough support, we could serve people who can't pay," Snyder said.

Carrboro has never had an adult day-care facility for the elderly.

Council focuses on water issues

By DAN MORRISON
Staff Writer

Orange Water and Sewer Authority is not keeping Chapel Hill posted on ways to restrict water use, and the authority should work with the Town Council to expand its water supplies, council members said Monday.

In a long work session Monday, the council approved a resolution requesting OWASA to present it with a report on the area water supply situation within 90 days.

Council member Joan Shapiro said the report should describe the progress in expanding the town's water supply and creating a supply network among Carrboro, Hillsborough, Orange County and Durham.

Chapel Hill is still recovering from this summer's severe drought, which hurt 60,000 farmers and decreased the level of University Lake from six to eight inches a day at its worst.

As of Monday, University Lake was 36 inches below normal, which puts the town at the mandatory stage two water restrictions.

During the drought, OWASA put limits on such activities as lawn watering and car washing. The council abided by these measures, but did not develop tactics of its own.

OWASA has also purchased Stone Quarry in Hillsborough to be used as a backup when water supply becomes critical.

In her petition, Shapiro said the council had the authority to impose measures beyond OWASA recommendations and should do so.

Shapiro, who is also president of the Alliance of Neighborhoods, urged the council to provide procedures that no occupancy permits — permits granted to owners upon completion of a newly-built home — be issued in Chapel Hill during water shortage emergencies.

But other council members advocated delaying issuance of building permits rather than of occupancy permits.

This would cut down on the number of homes being built in Chapel Hill, thereby, conserving the water supply.

"It seems the time to deal with this is earlier, with building permits," council member Jonathan Howes said. "When we're in a crisis situation, we may need a moratorium on development."

Mayor James Wallace also had some reservations about the occupancy permits.

"It's not fair to preclude a person

from a certificate of occupancy when he's paid for a house and is ready to move in," Wallace said.

The council decided that building permits should be detained when water levels drop to 54 inches below normal, corresponding with stage three restrictions.

Council member Arthur Werner said it was "about time the town quit planning behind OWASA's skirt."

"If we don't act now, we will appear like the little boy who cried wolf. We must put a clamp on building issuances," Werner said.

In other business, the council voted unanimously in favor of a \$25,000 Greenways Commission project to add to its Tanyard Branch trail and begin work on two new trails at Battle Park and Bolin Creek.

The commission has appropriated \$19,500 for construction and consulting services of the new trails and \$5,500 for improvements to the existing Tanyard Branch trail.

The council also discussed the following issues Monday night:

■ The council's rejection of a resolution approving construction of 120 townhouses on Eubanks Road due to problems with recreation space and traffic lights.

■ Approval of an ordinance restricting mopeds, skateboards and scooters on certain sidewalks in the center of Chapel Hill.

■ The appointment of Jennie Capparella, a native of Chapel Hill, to a vacant seat on the city's Transportation Board.

Evita

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play Eva Peron, while Michael Sarfaty will play Che and Jon Peretto will play Juan Peron. The show, produced by Adams and directed by Gale Salus, is expected to play to a nearly sold-out house.

Adams said he was optimistic about the success of "Evita" in Chapel Hill. "Not for nothing did

it run for four years on Broadway and eight years in London," he said. "It's a very powerful, very intriguing, fascinating musical."

"Evita" will be performed tonight at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1449 for ticket information.

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