New Chapel Hill post office to open

By JULIE CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

Expanding its facilities to better serve the growing Chapel Hill area, the postal service will be opening a new office at Timberlyne Shopping Center on Weaver Dairy Road.

The 10,000-square-foot building will be completed next week, said Ron Vickers, acting superintendent of the Chapel Hill postal service.

But the post office will not be opened until the service equipment used in the building is installed.

"The building will open no later than the first of the year," Vickers said. "The building will be completed on schedule, but the equipment for our operation has not arrived yet."

The office will serve people in the general vicinity of the Timberlyne area, mostly people who live on the east or west side of Airport Road, he said.

But customers will not be the only beneficiaries of the office, he said. The establishment of the new post office will inevitably bring more people into the shopping center.

However, the most welcome benefit of the new office will be to alleviate the crowded conditions at Chapel Hill's main post office on Estes Drive, he said.

The new post office is not the only change being made in postal service for the area. The main post office will undergo renovations at the beginning of next year.

"The building will get a new facelift," Vickers said. A series of improvements, costing approximately $500,000, will be made to the main office. Improvements will include moving the service window forward to make room for more mailboxes.

While Chapel Hill post offices are expanding, the Carrboro postal service is trying to do the same.

Gary Sabo, postal operations analyst for Carrboro, said a new post office for the town will be built, but the site for the building has not been determined yet.

"There has been an ad in the local newspaper describing an appropriate area for the building to take place," he said. After offers are made, the size and the location of the suggested areas will be analyzed.

After officials have selected a site, they will then make funding requests. And, after funding approvals, construction can begin, "hopefully within the next few months," Sabo said.

County schoolchildren to receive ID kits

By CRANDALL ANDERSON
Staff Writer

If you ever buy a carton of milk, you may notice a picture of a missing child on it and a request to help find the child.

The Orange County school system is now enacting a program to keep its young students from becoming missing children by supplying them with identification kits.

The kits are being provided by Protect-A-Child, a non-profit organization based in Durham. The kits will be distributed to first-graders at no cost to the parents or the schools, Orange County Schools Superintendent Dan Lunsford said.

"The program is totally voluntary, and parents have the option of putting as much or as little information as they wish into the kits," Lunsford said. "The idea (of supplying first-graders with the kits) first came up this summer and a final decision (to enact the program) was made in early September."

Terri Welch, director of Protect-A-Child, said the kits contain dental charts, fingerprint cards, hair samples and sheets that teach parents and children what to do if the child becomes missing.

The kit also contains a body outline indicating any birthmarks, scars or anything that will help law enforcement officials identify a child if he or she becomes missing.

During the 1987-88 school term Protect-A-Child distributed more than 15,000 kits in Durham City Schools and Durham County Schools at a cost of $32,000. Protect-A-Child produces the kits using public and private donations, Welch said.

Protect-A-Child, which originated in Durham, has existed for about five years.

"We also have chapters in 33 other states and we have (supplied) up to sixth-graders in some school systems," Welch said. Research was done for more than a year consulting professionals such as doctors and lawyers on what to put in the kits, Welch said.

When asked if Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools were participating in the program, Superintendent Neal Pedersen said he had not received a request to become involved.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools use voluntary fingerprinting as an identification method, Pedersen said.

John Denver benefit concert to help local charity efforts

By JESSICA LANNING
Staff Writer

In an effort to raise money for the Inter-Faith Council's homeless shelter and community kitchen, the Village Companies will bring John Denver to the Smith Center for a holiday benefit concert in December.

Jim Heavner, president of the Village Companies and the initiator of the event, said he believes the concert will be an excellent opportunity for the community as a profit-making venture.

Proceeds from the concert will be used for a building fund for the hungry and the homeless.

Heavner said he hopes the money from the concert will help solve the recent debate over the location of the shelter and community kitchen. Funds could be used to either lease a new building or build a new facility to incorporate both the shelter and the kitchen.

Heavner was contacted about the possibility of hosting John Denver through the Smith Center. He said he felt Denver would be the perfect entertainer for this kind of event.

"He is associated with the world hunger movement and we were able to have him waive the percentage of profits that he would normally take because he was supporting the movement," Heavner said.

Bernard Segal, vice president of the fund-raising committee of the Inter-Faith Council, said the Smith Center also would not take their usual cut of the profits.

If Denver is able to bring in 4,500 people, the shelter could expect a profit of about $50,000 to $75,000, Segal said.

A pre-concert gala may also take place but definite plans have not been made, he said.

Heavner said patrons and sponsors will be brought together over the next couple of weeks as part of a major fund-raising drive to promote the concert.

"We've been promoting a July 4th concert and fireworks with Mike Cross in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club for the past several years," Heavner said. This is the first time they have ever done anything in the Smith Center.

Heavner said he expected about 7,000 to 9,000 people to attend, mostly the traditional adult audience Denver appeals to instead of the college market.

The concert will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12. Tickets are $15 and are available now at the Smith Center box office and Ticketron locations.

Don't miss the arts news in Thursday's Omnibus

Chapel Hill Police Roundup

■ More than $13,000 in damage piled up Friday in a three-car accident on U.S. 15-501 near Cleland Drive.

The accident occurred when a car was merging left into a turn lane and a second car tried to go around it and struck the rear bumper. The collision caused the first car to cross lanes into the path of an oncoming third car.

Damage to the first car was estimated at $7,000. Damage to the second car was estimated at $1,700. Damage to the third car was estimated at $5,000.

Laura Ruth Meador, 23, of Dickens Court in Chapel Hill, was the driver of the second car. She was charged with a safe movement violation and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. No other charges were filed in the accident.

■ A School Lane resident reported Saturday that while she was on Graham Street, her coat got caught in a car door. The driver did not know the coat was caught, so he began to drive off. The woman was pulled alongside the car and sustained a few scratches and bruises.

■ Eight noise complaints were reported to police this weekend, including two from Pritchard Avenue.

■ Cars had a hard weekend, as numerous vandalism and breaking and entering incidents were reported.

An Audi owned by a Pittsboro man was vandalized Friday and someone entered it through the right door. A radar detector and radio were stolen, and sugar water was poured on the outside of the car. The damage from the vandalism was estimated at $250.

Someone broke out the glass in the right rear passenger window of a car parked at Salem Court Sunday. Damage to the car was estimated at $185, and the value of the stolen property was $25.

The right front window was broken out of a car parked at Chapel Hill Senior High School Sunday and property was stolen. Entry was gained to the vehicle by throwing an old speaker through the right side passenger window. Total damage was estimated at $75.

Someone stole the right rear tire from a vehicle parked at Cameron Avenue Friday. The estimated value of the stolen property was $120.

A Chapel Hill man was arrested Saturday when, according to the arrest report, an officer saw him jumping up and down on the hoods of two vehicles on Pritchard Avenue Extension. Henry Edward Smith, 42, of Rt. 10, was charged with injury to personal property. According to the arrest report, he had also let the air out of the cars' tires.

■ A Chapel Hill resident was riding his bike on Sunset Drive when he stopped at a friend's house to talk. While he was talking, a vehicle pulled up in front of the house and a man got out. The suspect told the victim that police had told him if he saw the bicycle the victim was riding he could pick it up. The suspect took the bicycle and left, traveling south on Sunset Drive.

— compiled by Will Lingo

Candidates

from page 1

"I certainly hope it is," he said. "If I had any feeling that it wasn't, I would have recommended a change in procedure."

Cell said she had received some feedback from students through the committee. "The students have asked tough questions, but the kind that should be asked," she said.

Students have asked questions such as whether the candidates would support them and whether they would "stand up to authority," Cell said.

Carlton said she had never heard of another instance in which every student had the chance to meet candidates for a University position, but she said the procedure was a good one.

"They ask us after each meeting, 'What are the good points and what are the bad points of this candidate?' " Carlton said.

Cell, who will make the final selection based upon the search committee's recommendation, said she hoped to hire a candidate by Jan. 1.

"They (the committee members) all know that there's urgency in this," she said.

Appelbaum agreed. "I would certainly hope that a recommendation would be to the dean by the week after Thanksgiving," he said.

Carlton said she thought the search committee members would consider students' opinions when they make their choice.

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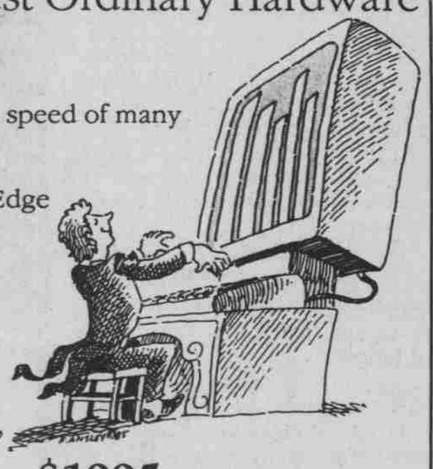

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