

Exhibition game fuels NFL interest

By **CHUCK WILLIAMS**
Staff Writer

An NFL exhibition game to be played in Raleigh in August has sparked more talk about the possibility of bringing an NFL team to North Carolina.

An exhibition game between the New York Jets and the Philadelphia Eagles will be played in Raleigh at Carter-Finley Stadium on Aug. 20. The game may indicate the level of interest in having a professional football team in the state.

Two groups, one from North Carolina and one from South Carolina, are trying to purchase an NFL franchise.

George Shinn, the owner of the Charlotte Hornets NBA team and the Charlotte Knights, a minor league baseball team, is trying to bring a team to North Carolina. Jerry Richardson, a S.C. businessman and former NFL player, is trying to bring a team to South Carolina.

Charlotte has been mentioned as a possible site for a team from which both states would benefit.

Charlotte could be a very good market for an NFL team, said George Shinn, owner of the Hornets.

"I think a pro football team will be as beneficial to the area as the Hornets team," Shinn said. "I think the Charlotte market is very strong, and the fact that we've done so well with the Hornets team has caused the NFL to look here more."

Costs for purchasing a franchise are far from finalized, but estimates range from \$50 to \$75 million, Shinn said.

Despite some doubts as to whether the Charlotte market

could support an NFL team, Shinn is optimistic.

"Charlotte is the smallest area to support a pro basketball team, yet 80 percent of our season tickets sales are from Mecklenburg County, and we lead the league in attendance," he said. "It's not the size of the market, it's how you market the market."

Shinn is also building a stadium to accommodate the team.

"I have 500 acres off (Interstate) Highway 77 in York County, S.C.," he said. "We are currently building a baseball stadium for the Charlotte Knights which could expand to (seat) 70,000. NFL architects have worked closely there so that the stadium might meet their specifications."

A good showing at the exhibition game in Raleigh would certainly help the Charlotte plans, Shinn said.

Gov. Jim Martin, an avid sports fan, has also supported the idea of bringing a team to Raleigh.

"He (Martin) has made quite a few efforts in this area," said David Prather, spokesman for the governor's office. "He was part of this effort to bring in the game, and he and Governor Campbell of South Carolina are working to bring a team to Charlotte."

The governor's office was not taking sides on which group should purchase the franchise, Prather said.

The NFL has not yet formed a specific committee to examine the possibility of a team in Charlotte.

The two teams decided to play the game in Raleigh, and the NFL had nothing to do with the decision, said Dick Maxwell, spokesman for the NFL.

Race for Carrboro mayor gearing up

By **JOANNA DAVIS**
Staff Writer

Carrboro Mayor Eleanor Kinnaird may face opposition from former Mayor Jim Porto in the upcoming November elections.

Porto said he would like to see a qualified candidate run for Carrboro mayor but if no one else runs against Kinnaird, then he will. "I still haven't decided because I'm very busy."

Kinnaird has made progress during her term as Carrboro mayor, but she has not worked up to the full potential of the office in areas, Porto said.

Kinnaird is successful at "cutting the ribbons of new businesses" and representing Carrboro at other social gatherings, he said. "But when it comes down to actually negotiating with Orange County and other area officials, I don't feel she's been forceful enough."

Many residents would like Porto to run for re-election, he said.

Kinnaird said she wanted to con-



Eleanor Kinnaird
continue the progress made during her term. "There are a lot of programs I'm interested in and interested in

seeing continued."

Improved roads to alleviate traffic problems in downtown Carrboro is a project that needs to be accomplished, she said.

Kinnaird said representing Carrboro residents has been her favorite role as mayor.

"We need to show our people and organizations that the town cares for them. They get to know somebody in town and feel they have some type of contact."

Board of Aldermen members Judith Wegner, Hilliard Caldwell and Tom Gurganus will also be up for re-election in November.

Caldwell has not decided yet whether he will run for re-election or for another town office. "I'd like to continue to serve the citizens."

The board has made a lot of progress, Caldwell said.

"I think things are going very well. We have an excellent staff on the board now... We haven't had a tax

increase in the past four years."

Carrboro residents determine the major town issues, Gurganus said. Water quality and the Orange County Landfill are town issues now.

Gurganus said UNC students participated in the election whenever there was an issue pertinent to them.

"The students haven't been very active in the past few years. I haven't seen an issue that has really gotten them motivated."

"A student ran for a seat on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen in 1985. I think he (the student) underestimated some of the effort it would involve, and I think he underestimated some of the issues."

Caldwell said that he would have no problem if a student ran for a seat on the board and that he would support student voters. "I will not overlook student votes. There's a lot of pros and cons with student voters, but I think students have a right to vote."

Service district analysis to be released

By **CHARLES BRITAIN**
City Editor

The Chapel Hill Town Council will receive a report from Town Manager David Taylor Monday on the downtown revitalization service district proposed by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Downtown Commission.

According to the town manager's report, the downtown service district would mean a tax rate of 7 cents per \$100 of property value for the businesses within the district.

"For an owner of property subject to property taxes, the supplemental rate would mean a tax of \$70 per \$100,000 of taxable valuation or about \$6 per month," the report said.

On Feb. 13, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Downtown Commission presented a petition to the town council requesting the establishing of

a municipal service district in the downtown.

The proposed service district would include downtown Chapel Hill on both sides of Franklin and Rosemary streets from property fronting the east side of Henderson Street to the town limits at Merritt Mill Road.

The manager's report says the residential and suburban growth in downtown Chapel Hill has "diminished" the area as "the center of the community's commercial, institutional, cultural, legal and financial activities."

The report also mentions the results of a February Downtown Commission survey among residents and businesses that tried to determine the needs of downtown.

According to the survey, residents and businesses are concerned about

traffic conditions that affect the accessibility of the downtown. The survey also indicated a need for improvements to downtown appearance.

The service district tax would generate a revenue of \$50,000 for the revitalization of downtown Chapel Hill.

The revenue from the service district would finance two downtown trolleys, sidewalk cleaning, capital improvements, downtown promotion and special monthly events.

The two downtown trolleys would run on a route with stops along West Franklin and Rosemary streets. The trolleys are designed to "enhance accessibility within the downtown area during the midday shopping and lunch periods," the report said.

The capital improvements will

include landscaping, benches and beautification improvements to downtown.

Revenue from the service district would also be used to promote the downtown through a dining and shopping guide, a marketing package for new businesses and a monthly newsletter.

N.C. state law allows the town to establish service districts for downtown revitalization, water drainage and public parking.

The town manager's report follows N.C. procedures for establishing a service district with a supplemental property tax rate.

The town council has scheduled a public hearing for May 22 to allow residents and business owners the opportunity to discuss the service district proposal.

Council members request backing for proposed impact tax

By **CHARLES BRITAIN**
City Editor

A memorandum has been submitted to the Chapel Hill mayor and town council requesting support for the proposed Orange County impact tax and affordable housing.

Town council members David Godschalk and Arthur Werner submitted a resolution which recommends the town support a draft bill to authorize the impact tax in Orange County.

The memorandum said that during the past year, the Intergovernmental Work Group, a committee consisting of representatives from Orange County, Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough, has been considering alternative sources of revenue.

This committee developed a draft bill which would authorize Orange County to levy an excise tax on the

impact of land development within the county.

Orange County, Carrboro and Chapel Hill held a public hearing on March 30 to provide residents with the opportunity to express opinions concerning the impact tax.

Under the impact tax bill, any individual or development group responsible for the construction of housing or commercial buildings would have to pay the tax. The impact tax would be assessed according to the impact of each development.

According to an Intergovernmental Work Group report released in February, commercial and residential revenues from a \$1 impact tax would generate \$488,450 annually for Chapel Hill.

Orange County and the municipalities within the county would share

the tax revenues. The revenues would fund the planning, design, construction and improvement of public facilities used during land development, such as roads.

The committee's report said, "The purpose of the tax is to generate funds to partially offset the cost of new and replacement facilities which are necessary in part by new growth within Orange County."

The committee said a tax on county development would be an appropriate way to fund the cost of capital needs which can not be attributed to one development project. The tax is also supposed to take the burden off county residents who are often forced to pay for the increase in capital needs caused by new development.

The construction of government buildings or buildings owned by non-profit organizations would be exempt

from the impact tax.

The impact tax would be placed on each square foot of dwelling space and enclosed commercial floor space. Godschalk and Werner also presented a resolution to the mayor and the council to affirm Chapel Hill's

commitment to providing affordable housing.

The resolution said the availability of affordable housing in Chapel Hill is a public goal and supports the exemption of publicly owned or publicly assisted housing from the

impact tax.

The N.C. General Assembly will decide if the impact tax should be allowed.

The town council will discuss the impact tax memorandum at its meeting Monday.

CROP Walk to wind through town

By **TRACY LAWSON**
Staff Writer

Approximately 700 walkers are expected to participate Sunday in the third annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP (Christian rural overseas program) Walk.

Irene Briggaman, chairwoman of Inter-Faith Council (IFC) public relations, said the walk would begin at 1 p.m. with registration and entertainment by Djevojke, a group of five or six musicians who perform lively eastern European music.

The pre-walk ceremony will begin at 1:45 p.m. and will include speeches by Carrboro Mayor Eleanor Kinnaird, Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan

Howes and Ron Savage, a sportscaster for WTVD channel 11.

The 10-kilometer walk will begin at 2 p.m., and it begins and ends at Carrboro Elementary School.

There are four rest stops along the walk route. At each of the rest stops, there will be drinking water, rest rooms and live entertainment, she said.

In 1987, 250 walkers participated in the Chapel Hill CROP Walk, and \$12,500 was raised. Last year, more than 500 people were involved in the walk and the IFC raised \$26,000. This year the IFC hopes to increase involvement to 700 people and to raise \$32,000, Briggaman said.

Most of the walkers are recruited through participation drives at local churches.

"This year we anticipate that approximately 50 people will participate from our church," said Gary Heeter, walk organizer for Chapel of

the Cross church. "This number is up considerably from last year."

Briggaman said CROP began after World War I to aid underprivileged countries overseas.

"However, today CROP is a misnomer because it (the organization) helps more than just people overseas, the money comes from more than just rural areas, and it is not a totally Christian organization."

The money raised from CROP walks is used internationally to help stop hunger.

"This year, 25 percent of the money raised will remain at the IFC," Briggaman said. "This money has been earmarked to go to the pantry and community soup kitchen."

From the CROP Walk proceeds, 75 percent of the money minus a percentage for operating expenses will go to international hunger agencies sponsored by Church World Service, she said.

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