

# Preserving Town's Cultural Atmosphere Topic of Development Meeting

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STAFF WRITER

With the future of Chapel Hill in mind, residents and local politicians are considering several options for revitalizing and sustaining the downtown area.

Several candidates vying for one of five open seats on the Chapel Hill Town Council were briefed Wednesday afternoon on the evolving downtown plan, created by the Downtown Planning Committee. The briefing was held in the Welcome Center on Franklin Street.

Equipped with maps and charts, Josh Gurlitz, chairman of the Downtown Planning Committee, took the candidates through the plan's varying goals.

"There are three main themes: number one is human scale, ... the next theme is diversity, ... and the third theme is cooperation," Gurlitz said.

The plan outlines the downtown area to include Franklin and Rosemary streets from Henderson Street to Merritt Mill Road as well as the surrounding residential neighborhoods. "Downtown is not just Franklin Street," Gurlitz said.

The plan outlines four objectives for downtown improvement: diverse land use, transportation, town character, and government and infrastructure.

■ The plan attempts to promote diversity throughout the downtown area by supporting and maintaining its unique character. One way the plan suggests achieving this goal is to promote residential development downtown.

"The downtown should remain as the center of public, spiritual and cultural activities," Gurlitz said.

Another goal of diversification is to encourage the development of large companies as well as smaller neighborhood stores downtown.

"The downtown is a very appropriate place for both of them," Gurlitz said.

■ The main thrust of the transportation objective is to ensure that downtown remains pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly. The plan calls for improving pathways from Rosemary to Franklin Street, creating safe bike paths and encouraging carpooling.

■ Among the committee's goals for maintaining town character is finding money for Streetscape, a multi-million

dollar downtown improvement program.

"Streetscape needs to be a part of what we do. Streetscape is the front yard of the downtown," Gurlitz said. "The town should conserve and enhance the traditional urban development pattern."

■ The last objective of the plan is to improve government and infrastructure relationships and cooperation within the town. This objective includes maintaining and encouraging the town's relationship with the University, local utility companies and public support services.

The plan also aims to curb downtown

crime by increasing police presence and lighting in dark areas.

Gurlitz said, in response to the candidates' questioning, that the committee's next task would be to consider ways the plan could be funded.

"The next step is the game plan," he said. Currently, the committee is organizing meetings "to put the players together to organize their own activities."

Gurlitz also said the committee was looking into the development ordinances of the town to see if they might need to be altered to support the plan.

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## SECURITY

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dents' office.

Reported burglary and breaking-and-entering offenses also dropped by 4 percent since 1991, according to the report.

Carmon said the 24-hour residence hall lockup might have helped reduce the number of those crimes reported, but students still needed to take more responsibility for the safety of their property.

"(The lockup) probably did to the extent that it deterred some crimes," she said. When conducting random security inspections, Carmon said she was let into residence halls too easily.

"Students will still hold doors open for strangers," she said.

"People have the idea that you are generally supposed to be nice.

"When it comes to personal safety it's a good idea to be curious or at least just close the door."

Donald Boulton, vice chancellor and dean of student affairs, said he was pleased to see the decreases in assaults and burglaries.

"I was surprised when it seemed that in the town crime had gone up," he said. "Certainly I like to feel we have been working harder at it."

Boulton, who is a member of the Campus Safety Committee, said he felt the group also had taken action to make the campus community more safe.

"I think we've made some major strides and addressed a lot of trouble spots," Boulton said.

The group has been responsible for more sidewalk lighting on campus in addition to the 24-hour residence hall lockup.

Seventeen vehicles were reported stolen in 1992, one less than was reported stolen in 1990.

Arrests for alcohol violations increased by almost 50 percent and drug violations doubled, according to the report.

Boulton said alcohol had always been prevalent on campus and although more people were arrested, fewer might be consuming alcohol.

"One could make an argument that students are drinking less than before because they are more health conscious and those that do drink are drinking more," he said.

Carmon said students were drinking alcohol in public more often, but University Police had become more strict in enforcing alcohol rules.

"We've probably cracked down on it a lot more," she said.

"Some people have gotten a lot bolder like drinking outside and in parking lots, where they shouldn't be."

## Campus Calendar

THURSDAY

9 a.m. The Sport Club Council will have representatives from each club sport to answer questions in the Pit until 3 p.m.

10 a.m. The Carolina Union Activities Board invites students to come by the Pit until noon.

Noon The Black Cultural Center will present, "Where Do We Go From Here: Community or Chaos" in the BCC for all interested students.

1 p.m. The BCC will hold an interest meeting in the BCC for anyone interested in volunteering for the Community Saturday School staff.

3:30 p.m. University Career Services will present Job Hunt 101, basic information on how to use the UCS office, in 210 Hanes Hall for seniors and graduate students.

4:15 p.m. University Career Services will hold resume workshops for seniors and graduate students in 210 Hanes Hall.

5 p.m. The Korean American Students Association will hold an officers' and chairpersons' meeting in Union 226.

5:15 p.m. The Black Ink will hold an interest meeting in Union 210.

5:45 p.m. The Baptist Student Union will meet at the Battle House. There will be a \$2 meal following the meeting.

6 p.m. The Presbyterian Campus Ministry will give a welcome dinner at the Presbyterian Student Center.

The Black Student Movement will hold interest meetings for Miss BSM and Mr. BSM in the BCC and Union 212, respectively.

The New Generation Campus Ministries will hold Bible study in Union 210.

Amnesty International will hold a letter-writing meeting in the North Dining Room of Lenoir.

7 p.m. The UNC Outing Club will discuss its multi-event extravaganza plans in 210 Manning Hall.

UNC Habitat for Humanity will hold its first general meeting in the Union.

Student Government will hold an interest meeting in 105 Gardner Hall.

The Carolina Indian Circle will hold its first meeting in 2 Chase Hall.

7:30 p.m. Pauper Players will hold a general interest meeting. Check the Union desk for the exact location.

ModernExtension will hold an information meeting in the Women's Gym for people interested in auditioning for the modern dance group.

7:45 p.m. Pauper Players will hold a general interest meeting for people who want to try out for or get involved with West Side Story. Come to the Union Great Hall Balcony.

8 p.m. Chimera, the science-fiction/fantasy/gaming club, will have its organizational meeting in Union 213.

8:15 p.m. N.C. Hillel will present a second night at the movies.

9 p.m. WXYC 89.3 invites all students to tune in to the semester's first Thursday night feature, with R.E.M. and the Talking Heads.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

The French House has room for two male students who have French language experience. Applications are available at the Carmichael Residence Hall desk.