

Taking it Further



Pianoman Bruce Hornsby performs Sunday at Walnut Creek Amphitheater's Further Festival. His set included songs from his latest album "Hot House," as well as old favorites.

DTH/KATHLEEN OEBLER

Aldermen Increase Pay, Pass Fiscal Year Budget

BY AMY CAPPIELLO
CITY EDITOR

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen were faced with a predicament Tuesday night. Either they could raise employee salaries and raise property taxes or they could keep salaries and taxes the same and risk losing qualified workers to better-paying jobs.

What's a board to do? The aldermen decided unanimously that a slightly higher tax rate was acceptable if it meant raising salaries. Carrboro town employees will now receive a raise in the 1996-97 Fiscal Year Budget.

Mayor Mike Nelson said he believed the board needed to adopt the pay plan adjustment as recommended by the manager.

"First, the department heads decided not to ask for any new staff positions because they thought salary levels were more important," Nelson said. "There may have been a time when Carrboro could get away with paying less than nearby communities, but we have passed that. The workers deserve it."

Alderman Hank Anderson said the town needed to be sure that it made every attempt to reduce salary compression, which occurs when new workers are hired for higher wages than existing workers with the same skills and duties.

He said in light of the problems the Chapel Hill Town Council faced with compression, it was critical to get rid of it as soon as possible.

Alderman Hilliard Caldwell said rais-

ing pay was the least the board could do for the employees.

"I really feel so good and Carrboro feels so good about (the employees) sitting here tonight," Caldwell said. "You do an excellent job. You make me look good as an elected official."

Alderman Alex Zaffron said he was torn over the pay issue because it would raise town taxes, yet was necessary to keep the best employees.

"You work hard and you deserve to be compensated competitively for the work you do," he said. "I think people expect this level of service and appreciate it. These pay raises are the best way to guarantee that the wave continues."

Nelson said while he agreed that the town's tax rate was high, he believed Carrboro received unfair criticism, especially when discussing levels of service and other fees.

"Some other communities charge fees that we don't and shouldn't charge," Nelson said. "On the surface, it looks like the tax rate is high. It is high, but it's a little bit deceptive when the media is talking about us having the highest tax rate in the Triangle. There are other fees that we don't have that aren't talked about."

The board also adopted the 1996-97 Fiscal Budget. The pay raises caused a 4.85 cent increase in the tax rate, instead of the originally proposed 6 cent increase. The town rounds out the tax rate to quarters of a cent for tax purposes and the new tax rate for fiscal year 1996-97 will be 74.78 cents per \$100 property value.

Zaffron Served Summons in Board Meeting

BY AMY CAPPIELLO
CITY EDITOR

In a startling interruption of Tuesday's Carrboro Board of Aldermen meeting, Alderman Alex Zaffron was served a summons to appear in federal court.

The summons relates to a lawsuit filed

by Susan Sexton-Melton. Zaffron said she objected to the siting of a spring rally sponsored by the Orange County Democratic Party, of which he is a vice chairman.

The rally was held so voters could meet the Democratic candidates for state primary races. Sexton-Melton, who is disabled, objected because the building was not handicap accessible. Sexton-Melton said she had the summons served in the meeting because Zaffron was avoiding her.

Zaffron said, "I was consistently told by Jan Allen, the party's chair, to refer all inquiries to Mrs. Melton to her."

Zaffron said he was very displeased in the manner in which the summons was served, but refused to further comment.



In the middle of Tuesday's meeting, Alderman ALEX ZAFFRON was served a summons to appear in federal court.

Town Council Discusses Bond Referendum for November Election

BY AMY CAPPIELLO
CITY EDITOR

Chapel Hill voters going to the polls in November may be voting for more than just candidates. The Chapel Hill Town Council unanimously agreed Monday night to begin the necessary steps to consider scheduling a bond referendum election for the Nov. 5 general election.

The \$13.5 million bond package would allot \$5 million for parks, \$3 million for the acquisition of open space, \$2 million for public safety facilities, \$500,000 for public works facilities, \$2 million for transportation and drainage and \$1 million for downtown Streetscape plan improvements.

Town Manager Cal Horton outlined the plan to the council members. He said Monday's action would establish a maximum bond amount and develop general categories where the money would be spent. Then the manager and town attorney would proceed with the legal steps necessary to have the issue ready for a November vote.

Council member Richard Franck said he supported the idea of a bond at this time. "With the favorable action of the Gen-

eral Assembly with the school bond, we would not be competing with the county for school funds," Franck said. "I think it's a favorable year for a municipal bond."

The council also discussed how to present the bond package to the voting public. Horton gave the council members three options, ranging from very broad categories to more specific, in a statement.

"We have been advised by our bond attorneys that the issues be stated in broad terms so as not to cause unanticipated limitations on the use of the bond proceeds in the future," Horton stated.

Council member Julie Andresen said it was important to note that no matter which package the council chose, the money would still be used for the same purposes.

"We'll have the same uses for the money," Andresen said. "We just have to decide what categories to put it into."

The council members agreed they were in favor of the option that would set up four broad-based funding categories. They also agreed to begin looking for people to help initialize plans about the bond referendum. Council members decided to submit names to Mayor Rosemary Waldorf.

FUNDS
FROM PAGE 3A

parents. "Some houses would have to be mortgaged as well," he said.

Further complicating the problem, there is uncertainty about how much money it will take for sprinklers to be installed in all 33 fraternity and sorority houses.

Binders said it would take from \$1 to \$1.5 million to install the sprinklers in the houses.

But Pope said it was too early to tell at this stage. "There are three factors you have to consider before you can consider cost," Pope said. "One is the size of the house, two is when the house was built, and three is how cosmetically pleasing you want the sprinklers."

Even though Greek organizations cannot receive the state funds, alumni are studying different options and the best way to manage the costs if Hunt does not call the legislators back to decide on the budget.

Pope said his fraternity's alumni corporation had met already and was busy getting estimates on the cost of the proposed sprinkler project.

Pope said he felt alumni involvement would certainly be beneficial.

"Sometimes it can be hard for undergraduates to handle certain financial problems on their own."



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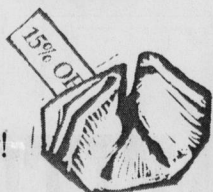
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FOOD
We offer soup, huge sandwiches, pastries, and desserts. We also prepare vegetarian soups & a veggie and cheese sandwich. Try Melissa's tuna sandwich, a delicious unique recipe.

BEVERAGES

- Often external flavors (shots) are added to enhance the taste of coffee, including caramel, vanilla, hazelnut, chocolate mint, almond, and cinnamon. Each week we plan to offer a shot of one of these flavors FREE to any coffee, espresso or Italian soda. Each week look in the DTH for your weekly coupon special.
- **HOT-WEATHER DRINKS:** Iced mochas, caffeinated & non-caffeinated teas, orangeades, lemonades, & limeades.
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We look forward to meeting you! Mac, David, Melissa, & Suzanne