

Aldermen unanimously deny proposal to alter downtown zoning

Residents spoke out against the proposal, citing added traffic problems.

BY COVELL DAY
STAFF WRITER

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen unanimously denied a proposed amendment Tuesday to a land-use ordinance to allow certain traffic-generating retail

stores to operate in the downtown B-2 zone.

The amendment aroused public protest during the board's weekly meeting. The controversy stemmed from an application received from National Jewelry and Pawn in March 1998 for a privilege license for property within the B-2 zone. After reviewing the request, the Zoning Division determined the proposed business was not permissible in that location.

Richard Phillips, who owns property

in the zone, wants to rent his property out to other businesses and submitted a land-use ordinance amendment requesting that retail stores generating high-volume traffic be allowed in the zone. Such stores would



Alderman HANK ANDERSON

include those that sell small to medium items and generate modest amounts of customer traffic. The zone is now intended for stores that sell large items and need big areas for display or storage and that generate low volumes of traffic.

A major concern of the public was the possibility of a pawn shop moving into the vacant building between the Cigo gas station and Country Junction Restaurant near Town Hall.

Sharon Collins of Carrboro said she investigated pawn shops in other areas.

"There were bars on windows, groups of people outside, handguns sold — many things we wouldn't want in our community." She added that a change in zoning might have a negative impact.

John Stewart, a Chapel Hill attorney representing Phillips, disagreed. He said the building couldn't develop to its full potential because of the current zoning.

"The area is not what it was 10 years ago. It's not what it was five years ago," he said.

Sherry Jones of Carrboro said the

idea was to provide a buffer between the more intense business district and the residential area. She denied that the area's pedestrian appeal would be lost with the increased traffic that would come with the change.

In other business, the board unanimously approved Alderman Jacquelyn Gist's proposal to rename Carrboro Community Park as Hank Anderson Community Park to commend Anderson for his years of service to the community, especially to recreation.

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The Weekly CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Canvass
 - Quickly, briefly
 - Fabler of yore
 - Old pronoun
 - Singer Collins
 - Rock
 - Bible book
 - Knight's wife
 - More of a wallflower
 - Gospel writer
 - Litigate
 - Needlelike
 - Jag the edge of
 - Georgia city
 - Summoned, old-style
 - Author Deighton
 - Inducts into office
 - Nest-egg \$\$
 - Blyth and Richards
 - More rational
 - Aromatic seasoning
 - Open container
 - Exit hymn
 - Name for a lion
 - Fruity quaffs
 - Palmer to pals
 - Borgnine and Hemingway
 - Rewards of sitting on beach
 - ...cares!
 - Actress Jacqueline

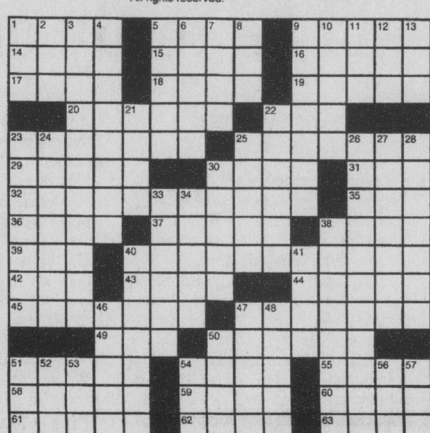
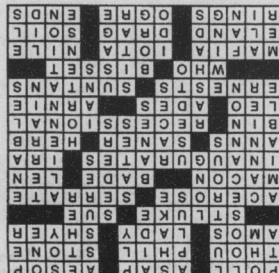
- Criminal group
- Small amount
- Sudan river
- Spiral-horned antelope
- Dull situation
- Earth
- Telephones
- Ugly creature
- Finishes
- School org.
- Resistance unit
- Uncontrollable member of a group
- Radiant
- Top grade
- Tremble

- Right-hand man
- Veneer sheet
- Makes certain
- Clear sky
- Chinese sauce
- First grade
- For each
- Year
- Passover meals
- Friendly
- More clever
- Fills completely
- Sci-fi TV series
- Topography
- Makes possible
- Deadly poisons
- Did, but doesn't now
- Track events

- "The New Yorkers" author Calisher
- Phylacia and Ahmad
- Holm and McKellen
- J.R. or Jock

- Shankar's instrument
- Way of employing
- 1976-80 Wimbledon winner
- Debussy work,

- "La..."
- The Greatest
- Sports enthusiast
- Marriage vow
- Cover
- Chicago trains, for short



Residents wary of Durham's image

A recent survey found a large number of Wake and Orange County residents hold negative perceptions of Durham.

BY TRACEY GERDON
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Wake and Orange counties do not think Durham is an ideal place to live, a recent survey found. According to the survey, conducted by the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, 163,000 Wake County residents and 29,000 Orange County residents have a negative perception of Durham.

The bureau also found that three times as many residents of Wake and Orange counties base their negative perceptions

of Durham on hearsay rather than personal experience. But the study found that 8 out of 10 Durham residents are pleased or very pleased with Durham as a place to live.

"The confusing part is that people have positive personal experiences, but their perceptions of Durham are based on third-hand information," said Reyn Bowman, president of the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The media is a major contributor of negative information, said Durham City Manager Lamont Ewell. "People base their perception on what they hear, and what they hear usually points out the negatives," he said.

The results also pointed out that people who live in neighboring counties believe that the media are more negative about Durham than other communities.

Bowman, on the other hand, does not blame the media. "These images are based on rumors, and the media fall prey to rumors as easily as any information consumer," he said. "Instead, we can remedy this by sharing more information. The media shouldn't restrict the negative information; we just need to create more of a balance."

Bowman indicated that the 30,000 workers who commute from Wake and Orange counties to work in Durham are often a source of misinformation.

"They share their negativity with outsiders who previously had a positive image of Durham."

The good news is that the perceptions of the neighboring county residents have improved over the past four years. "Durham as a community has worked very hard to improve their image," said Shelly Green, executive director of the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau. "And they are moving in the right direction."

To solve problems with its reputation, Durham has established a Public Information and Marketing Council in an effort to be more proactive in providing information to Durham's residents and neighbors.

"For now we're going to work on the affairs of the city," Ewell said.

"Once we get that squared away everything else, including our image, will fall into place."

Ewell also said the city has set six goals for itself, which include the reduction of crime and working on Durham's appearance.

Officials from all three counties do not expect the results of the survey to affect the flow of tourists or neighbors through the Triangle area.

Bizarro



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