

# Group to Provide Low-Rent Homes

Renovations on apartments in the Pine Knolls area will improve kitchens, flooring, walls, roofs and heating.

By JEFF CRAWFORD  
Staff Writer

In this town, where low-income housing can be scarce, a nonprofit organization has been working with the town of Chapel Hill to refurbish five apartments in the Pine Knolls community.

The apartments were in poor condition because of a history involving drugs, Terry Carver, project manager with EmPOWERment Inc., the organization renovating the apartments. "There happened to be a drug problem in the past and we wanted to fix it up and put something nice in the community," Carver said.

EmPOWERment is a Carrboro nonprofit organization that works to put low-income families in their own homes. For its Pine Knolls project, the Chapel Hill Town Council approved a \$110,000 grant Tuesday to help complete the renovations, which Carver said would be finished in March.

"We've been interested in this complex for quite a while," said Myles Presler, director of EmPOWERment's renovation project. "We wanted to secure it and make it better."

Presler said EmPOWERment had

been looking at the property for a year, but almost lost it. "An investor had already made an offer with the intention of making it student housing."

EmPOWERment will add new gas heating systems, kitchen cabinets, sinks, windows, flooring, ceilings, walls and roofs to the apartments. Steelmark, the contractor for the renovations, donated the new roof system, Carver said.

Out of the five apartments, three are already occupied and the other two will be occupied by low-income families, Presler said.

Applicants will most likely be under the Section 8 low-income housing program, although Presler said it was not a requirement. "We're not sold on giving them only to Section 8 families," he said.

Section 8 is a social services program that helps low-income families pay their rent and utilities.

Carver said the grant from the town of Chapel Hill, which came through the town's community development division, would cover half of the work. "The rest of the money will be paid through a low interest loan of \$185,000 through a generous contribution by the McAuley Institute," he said. The institute provides loans and grants to non-profit groups.

Presler said the apartments would stay drug-free as well. "We've hired a management company with a drug-free addendum that the families must sign."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

# Districting Plans Draw Lines

By RUDY KLEUSTEUBER  
Staff Writer

Residents' tensions ran high at a public forum Thursday as the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education presented its redistricting plans.

"This will be the fourth redistricting in eight years for our neighborhood, and we feel it's time to make a long-term plan," Chapel Hill resident Susan Gardner said.

The school board's redistricting committee is considering four plans for redistricting elementary and middle schools and one plan for the redistricting of high schools.

The board will make a decision at its Feb. 4 meeting.

Residents from all over Carrboro and Chapel Hill, who both supported and opposed different plans, almost filled the Chapel Hill Town Hall to capacity.

Many residents focused on their satisfaction with the current school districts and said their children needed more stability.

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ning stations get backed up," he said.

Julie Deschamps, one of the reserve processors, said she did not think anyone realized how much work was involved in putting the documents in computer databases. "It just takes a massive amount of time," she said.

But Taylor said the new system would

"We were shocked to see such major changes that impact such a small neighborhood as ours," said Sherri Evans-Stanton, a Windhover resident.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Superintendent Neil Pedersen began the meeting by saying that the redistricting was necessary to relieve classroom overcrowding and account for new school constructions and expansions.

Nonetheless, many residents were troubled by the new districts.

"We are extremely concerned about the amount of time our children will be spending every day inside school buses," said Bernardo Caceres, a Summerfield Crossing resident.

Lake Hogan Farms resident Rob Clark spoke out against the creation of small "satellite" districts far from residents' homes.

"A community school is one attended by children living in neighboring developments."

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"Oh colleagues, you have such an awesome responsibility," Bumpers said.

Though mostly serious, he also brought laughter to the floor. He recalled how he and Clinton had once survived a rough plane landing in Arkansas one snowy day. "We jumped out and ran away unscathed - to the dismay of every budding politician in Arkansas."

But he reminded his recent colleagues that he was not there as Clinton's friend but as a former senator concerned about the precedent a conviction of Clinton would set.

He argued that the Founding Fathers had put impeachment in the Constitution "to protect the public, not punish the president." Earlier, Clinton's private lawyer charged that House impeachment prosecutors had ignored evidence that would exonerate the president in an "attempt to fit some of the facts into a sinister pattern" of obstruction of justice.

UNIVERSITY MALL  
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"People will still be loyal," he said. "There are strong demographics in Chapel Hill, and none of that will change," he said.

Ranelli said the newly renovated University Mall would be an attraction for the people of Chapel Hill. "We are going to make the mall very very nice; there will be all new floors, new ceilings, new lights, new shops, new everything."

Chapel Hill Chamber of Commerce

tion of justice. "The direct evidence disproves the charges," David Kendall argued as the Clinton team completed its opening presentation.

Kendall's presentation was methodical, unrelenting and a stark contrast to that of Bumpers. He spared no words for the president's critics in denouncing the Whitewater investigation as "torturous and meandering" and said he was before the trial to rebut the "rhetoric" of the House prosecutors. The final presentation came one year to the day after the Lewinsky allegations became public and thrust the presidency into crisis.

"The rule of law is more than rhetoric. It means that in proceedings like these, where important rights are being adjudicated, that evidence matters. Fairness matters. ... The presumption of innocence matters," argued Kendall, who has represented the president through a variety of legal controversies dating to 1993. "The rule of law is not the monopoly of the House managers, and it ought to be practiced in these proceedings as well as talked about in speeches," he said.

President Joel Harper said Southpoint mall would not have a large impact on the downtown businesses of Chapel Hill.

"It will hardly affect Franklin Street because there is too different a client basis," he said.

He also said the new mall would not drain Orange County dollars.

"We are already losing the money to Cary Town Center or Crabtree, so it would just go to another mall."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

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on leadership issues specific to the gay-youth community. Events include speakers, workshops, musicians and a dance.

Williams said the conference was important because it filled in gaps in

the support network for gay youths.

"It's hard to be a queer young person," she explained. "Especially in high school, where you don't have support organizations like B-GLAD, and you might have to face things like other students, parents and church."

Gay youths face many barriers, Williams said, like homelessness and high suicide rates. She said she hoped that the conference would spotlight the gay-youth community.

"It's hard for a lot of young people to find a community, especially in the South," she said. "There are barriers here they wouldn't meet in New York."

More than 250 participants from 14 states are expected to attend.

Orchestrating a conference of this size adds up to hours of work from many people, Williams said.

Williams contributed by setting up the conference at UNC. She worked to

find building space on campus, organize security and provide information about Chapel Hill.

"Christine's done a ton of work," B-GLAD co-chairman Ian Palmquist said. "She really laid down the groundwork for the conference."

John Harrison, program director for the N.C. Lambda Network, was of the same opinion.

"The energy she's brought into her work and the impact on other young people is incredible," he said.

In addition to her dedication to the conference, Williams also serves as the chairwoman for the National Queer Student Caucus, an affiliation of the United States Students Association.

Her passion to advocate social justice is fueled by her own experiences.

"Christine is a passionate person," Harrison said. "When she sees injustices, she can't turn a blind eye. She

takes it very personally."

Williams said her work against injustices began when she saw her high school teachers, including her mother, involved in a labor dispute.

She also campaigned against homophobia and heterosexism after seeing discrimination against her gay friends.

Her interest intensified after she came out in college.

"As an out dyke, I see how issues of homophobia effects my brothers, sisters and me personally," Williams said.

She said she didn't view her work as just a mission, but a duty. "There's so much injustice in the world. It would be a waste of my time to sit around and whine. I feel really intensely about how inequitable our system has become."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

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**Campus Calendar Friday**  
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - **Dr. Steve Wing**, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology, will present "A Case Control Study of Multiple Myeloma at Four Nuclear Facilities" as part of the department's Cancer Epidemiology Series in the John Cassel Conference Room, 2101G McGavran Greenberg Hall.  
3 p.m. to 4 p.m. - **Department of Disability Services** will be holding a forum for an assistant director of disability services in Union 210-211. All students are encouraged to come hear candidate Anne K. Bryan's ideas. For more information, call 962-8299.  
5 p.m. - Concerned about recycling

on campus? Then join the **"Greening of Carolina" - Green Games!** Come find out how you can participate in running UNC's campuswide annual recycling competition at this semester's first meeting in the Union near the Cabaret.  
7:30 p.m. - Discussion on the equality of men and women: come share your ideas and hear the **Baha'i** perspective in an open environment where diversity of thought is encouraged. Frank Porter Graham Lounge.

of workshops and entertainment will be held at this free event. For more information, call 515-5210.

8 p.m. - **"I Have A Dream,"** a musical tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held at the Stewart Theatre at N.C. State University. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and \$5 for seniors and children. For tickets, call 515-1100 and for more information, call 515-5210.

**Saturday**  
noon to 5 p.m. - **The 14th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Festival** will be held at the McKimmon Center at N.C. State University. Sponsored by the African-American Cultural Center of N.C. State. A variety

**Sunday**  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. - **The Department of Dramatic Art and PlayMakers Repertory Company** will hold an open house in their new building on Country Club Road. Refreshments, presentations and tours will be offered. For more information, call 962-7259.

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