

Town Considering New Land Options

The Town Council is looking into possible sites for public works after the land lease expires December 2006.

By TRICIA BARRIOS
Staff Writer

Facing the prospect of losing public works land within the next six years, the Chapel Hill Town Council is starting to study other options that would allow for future expansion.

The town is leasing 24.2 acres of land at the Horace Williams Tract, which is owned by the University. The 30-year lease agreement will end Dec. 6, 2006.

Jonathan Howes, special assistant to interim Chancellor Bill McCoy and co-chair of the Horace Williams Planning Group, said the University had not decided whether it would offer to renew the lease.

"It'll be quite a while," he said. "But we're moving in the direction of using the land for the University's purposes."

The tract of land houses the town's public works department, the transportation department and an animal shelter, as well as two recycling centers.

Council members agreed to begin searching for alternative sites at Monday's meeting.

Council member Jim Ward said the task of finding land could be difficult.

"There are not very many sizable portions of land within town limits that are usable, and they're getting scarcer every day," he said.

Town Public Works Director Bruce Heflin said there were benefits to staying on the Horace Williams Tract, but even if the town was given the option of renewing the lease, it might not be feasible to stay there.

"We're centrally located, and everyone knows where we are," he said.

However, Heflin said the need for expansion could be limited if the site did not offer the needed space.

"The town has grown, so we're probably 25 to 30 percent larger a department," he said. "To expand, we'd have to move out to the landfill beside us, but you can't build buildings over landfills."

Heflin said there would still be much work left to do if the University extended the town's lease.

"Even if we could stay here, we'd have to do lots of investigation of conditions under the ground to see if it's possible to expand," he said.

However, Ward said the Town Council was already trying to prepare for a possible move. "The town needs to proceed under the assumption that (the University) is going to have to relocate everything out there," he said.

He said the council was exploring a variety of options for the public works land. "We are exploring a short-term lease extension, and we are looking at parcels of land within town limits," he said. "We are also having informal conversations with Carrboro to combine public works facilities for both towns."

Ward said the primary focus for new land options centered on a parcel of land north of Eubanks Road, but the council had some concerns about it.

"Everybody wants their trash picked up, but not everybody wants to live near where these public works facilities are located," he said.

Council member Flicka Bateman said the council was certain of a two-year extension to the lease to give the town more time. "It's certainly nothing we can take to the bank for long-term use."

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

Habitat Shoots for \$40,000 Goal

The Orange County chapter of Habitat for Humanity is trying to find funding for new ideas and projects.

By KATHLEEN WIRTH
Assistant City Editor

With less than four months left in its fund-raising campaign, the Orange County Habitat for Humanity is stepping up to the challenge of raising \$400,000 by June 1.

Officials said they were confident they could raise the remaining \$40,000 needed to receive a \$165,000 challenge grant set forth in September by The Kresge Foundation, an independent pri-

vate foundation based in Troy, Mich.

Anne Marie Vanaman, director of development for Habitat, said that under the conditions of the Kresge grant, the group must meet its fund-raising goal by June 1 or the grant is void. The grant would feed into a \$1.7 million campaign to extend the organization's work through 2000.

"We've never tackled this kind of campaign before," she said. "It (has been) a lot of money to raise, but we're working on raising the rest of the \$40,000 in order to get the grant."

Despite collecting more than \$360,000 toward the necessary challenge funds, Vanaman said fund-raising after the holidays presented problems in soliciting donations. "Most people are consumed with paying their Christmas

bills or taxes," Vanaman said. "Basically we're going to have to rally the community and our core supporters because the grant's all or nothing come June 1."

She said local chapters of Habitat, including the UNC organization, contributed to the fund raising through the Blitz Build campaign.

Tia Lendo, a co-leader for the UNC Blitz Build project, said the \$23,000 the group had raised since October 1998 was a necessary evil in realizing the ideals of Habitat. "Fund raising is at the base of any organization," she said. "It builds a sense of community, and a community can't exist without partnership."

In a statement released by the foundation, officials said the foundation awarded grants to 211 charitable organizations throughout the world for pro-

jects involving major capital improvements or renovations.

"Grant recipients have raised initial funds toward their respective projects before requesting foundation assistance," the press release stated. "Grants are then made on a challenge basis, requiring the raising of the remaining funds, thereby ensuring completion of the project."

Vanaman said the grant would help Habitat continue the group's building efforts and ensure the creation of partnerships throughout the community.

"The money will help us get started and continue our work," she said. "It's a big chunk."

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Execution Moratorium Draws Praise, Criticism

By RACHEL LEONARD
Staff Writer

Death penalty opponents are lauding the recent move by Illinois Gov. George Ryan placing a moratorium on executions to investigate the high rate of overturned sentences and allegations of unfairness within the system.

But advocates of capital punishment say they hope the gesture will not eliminate a punishment they see as just.

Illinois became the first state in the nation to place a moratorium on the death penalty when Republican Gov. George Ryan announced Monday that all executions would be halted. Ryan says he supports capital punishment.

An example of the correctional system's possible shortcomings came last year when Illinois officials released Anthony Porter from death row after a college journalism class at Northwestern University proved he was innocent.

David Protes, a journalism professor at the university, teaches the investigative reporting class. "My students and I are thrilled that a Republican governor in favor of the death penalty has declared a moratorium on executions."

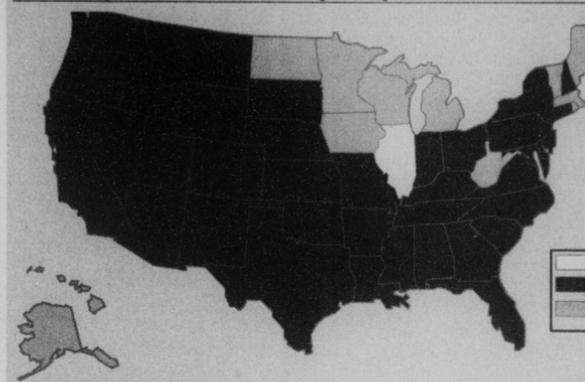
Protes said the response to the moratorium in Illinois had been overwhelmingly positive.

"Even prosecutors are supporting the move in light of past (false convictions), he said. "I hope it will lead to abolition."

Northwestern student Katherine Newberger is enrolled in Protes' class.

Nationwide Distribution of the Death Penalty

Ill. Gov. George Ryan recently imposed a moratorium on the death penalty. Ryan, a Republican, said he was not opposed to the death penalty, but this would give state officials the time to investigate the high rate of overturned sentences and allegations of prejudiced sentencing.



- Illinois is the only state in the United States to impose a moratorium on the death penalty.
- In 1999, Illinois executed only one person. Texas lead the nation with a total of 35 executions.
- There have been a total of 610 executions since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976.

Legend:
 ■ Moratorium
 ■ Death Penalty
 ■ No Death Penalty

SOURCE: WWW.SMU.EDU/DEATHPEN

"In doing all this work, we realized how flawed the system is," she said. "We all feel a sense of relief knowing there won't be any executions for a long time."

But Don Boys, executive director of the pro-death penalty organization Common Sense for Today, took a different view. "I hope they don't overreact," he said.

Boys said he was not concerned about the large portion of lower-income inmates on death row.

"People who are poor have a greater

motivation to steal and commit more crimes," he said. "People who take another person's life deserve to die."

But Stephen Dear, executive director of the Chapel Hill chapter of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, said he strongly supported the moratorium.

"It shows that the American people are becoming aware of the deep-rooted problems of the death penalty and that innocent people have been sentenced to death and killed," he said.

Dear said he advocated a change in

North Carolina's justice system policy as well. He said that while he supported the complete abolition of capital punishment, he recommended a similar moratorium in North Carolina. "We will find the system is not fixable to a fair standard," he said. "I'm thrilled and I congratulate the Governor (of Illinois) for his bravery - if only Jim Hunt would have the courage to do that."

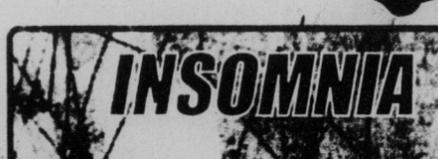
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Campus Calendar

- Today**
- 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - There will be an information session for **APPLES summer internship program** in Union 226.
 - 3:30 p.m. - Kyriakos S. Markides, Ph.D., from the University of Texas Medical Branch, will speak about "America's Growing Hispanic Population: Trends in Health Status and Policy Implications."
 - Markides' lecture will be held in the School of Social Work Auditorium. The lecture is part of the Institute on Aging Distinguished Lecture Series.
 - 5 p.m. - All biology majors interested in joining **Tri Beta Biological**

- Society** are invited to an interest meeting in 201 Coker Hall.
- 6 p.m. - The **UNC-CH Journal of Social Science and History** has weekly meetings in Union 108. All students interested in being on the staff are welcome to attend.
- The undergraduate journal desperately needs paper submissions. Submit theses and class papers to mitgon@email.unc.edu with an attached Word documents or call 914-2408.
- 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - There will be an information session for **APPLES summer internship program** in Union 226.
- 7 p.m. - **InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** North Chapter will hold a large group meeting in Union 224.

- Friday**
- noon - There will be a **Study Abroad Information Session** on the London Honors Summer Program presented by Dr. Robert Kirkpatrick in 106 Greenlaw Hall.
- 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - There will be a **make-up final exam** for Dr. Benavie's fall 1999 Economics 10 class in 307 Gardner Hall. Those taking the exam should bring an official dean's excuse.
- 4 p.m. - Scott Warner will direct the **Fred and Gail Fearing Friday Afternoon Jazz Series** featuring the UNC Jazz Combos in 107 Hill Hall.
- 7:30 p.m. - **Amnesty International** will meet in Union 220. Those interested can attend to learn about human rights actions around the world. New members are welcome.
- Monday**
- 4 p.m. - There will be an **International Festival planning**

- meeting** on the second floor lounge of the Carolina Union.
- The information session is for all students interested in helping with an international celebration of food and entertainment that will take place March 6.
- Items of Interest**
- Those with a service idea that will better the community and need money to implement their plan can apply for an **APPLES Social Entrepreneurship program**.
- New or existing student-designed organizations are eligible and can earn a grant and service-learning academic credit. Applications are available at the APPLES office.
- **Class of '38 Summer Fellowship Abroad** applications are available at the International Center, located in Union 116.
- Five awards of \$3,000 each are available for sophomores and juniors to pursue a project of personal or career interest.

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For further information please contact the
UNC-CH Study Abroad Office in 12 Caldwell Hall
(919) 962-7001
http://study-abroad.unc.edu

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- CTOPS Orientation Presentation and Sales Table
- Advisory board and assist general manager with Board of Directors

Contact Christine Ziemak at 962-0296

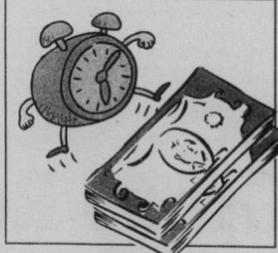
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- Cedar Falls Park, Weaver Dairy Rd.
- University Mall

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- You can submit FAFSA and Profile forms on-line.

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