

Aldermen Consider Widening Road

By SABINE HIRSCHAUER
Staff Writer

Facing inevitable and steady growth, the town of Carrboro is one step closer to expanding one of the major connecting roads to Chapel Hill.

During Tuesday night's Board of Aldermen meeting, members discussed future implications of the Homestead Road expansion. The \$2.1 million project proposes modifying the existing road to a two-lane section with a median, bike lanes and sidewalks.

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said the widening of the road would greatly impact the entire area.

"I don't like the idea of changing the

way (Homestead Road) looks," Gist said. "But it might be necessary as we grow. Traffic has to go through somewhere."

Alderman Diana McDuffee said she wanted the Homestead expansion plan back on the board's agenda to allow members time to evaluate the implications of the long-term project to prevent potential problems from being realized years later as has happened with other projects.

"I felt we approved these items after so many years without really re-examining what we had asked for," she said.

McDuffee said she would like to see Homestead Road remain a two-lane road since increased traffic is presently

not a concern.

"This might change 10 years from now, though," she said. "Traffic then might be overbearing."

Kenneth Withrow, transportation planner for Carrboro, said the improvements made to Homestead Road would be similar to the ones made on Airport Road.

"One of the questions is to have four lanes on Homestead Road or two lanes with a median," he said.

Withrow said construction for the Chapel Hill portion of the road would not start before 2003, and it would take Carrboro even longer since Chapel Hill's Homestead expansion plan originated back in 1991.

"It will take at least six to seven years until Carrboro's Homestead project even gets funded," he said.

Alderman McDuffee questioned the proposed 16-foot grass median between the two lanes as being too large.

"It appears to me just the two lanes and the bike lane would take away less property," she said.

Alderman Alex Zaffron said the median was a response to Chapel Hill's three lane plan for Homestead Road.

"The 16-foot median in addition to the two lanes serves to substitute for the three-lane section coming from Chapel Hill," he said.

The board unanimously approved a resolution to hold a public hearing concerning the issue May 31.

Gist welcomed the opportunity for the hearing.

"I am really interested to hear from the folks who live there," Gist said. "These are the people this has the most immediate and long-lasting affect on."

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

Town Council Approves YMCA Expansion Plan

By KATHRYN McLAMB
Staff Writer

The YMCA has received a nod of approval from the Chapel Hill Town Council, which agreed to allow the center to expand its facilities on Airport Road.

Although the expansion plans were unanimously passed by the council Monday, some raised concerns about potential traffic problems the addition would bring.

The council decided on a compromise with the YMCA that would allow for the eventual construction of a second road for vehicular traffic entering and exiting the facilities.

"The YMCA will be allowed to build a new gym with the current one driveway," council member Bill Strom said.

"The rest of the project will be put into Phase II, and they will be required to have a second access point before proceeding with Phase II."

Strom said the two-phase compromise marked a deviation from the town staff's recommendation to the council.

"The staff recommended the YMCA be allowed to build the gym, but before

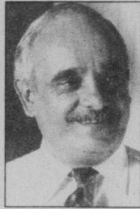
they got the certificate of occupancy, they would have to prove they had a legal right to build a second entrance," he said.

The council decided that the staff's recommendation would compromise YMCA negotiators' ability to obtain an easement.

The easement must be obtained from owners of the neighboring property, which is located where the access road would be constructed.

Council member Flicka Bateman said it would be unfair to put the YMCA in the position where the easement was required to use a new gym.

"Although, the land was appraised at \$20,000, (the property owners) said they wouldn't sell for less than \$60,000," Bateman said. "It is unreasonable for us to put the YMCA in a position where



Council member Lee Pavao said the YMCA needed more space to conduct its programs adequately.

they have no position to negotiate with that (price)."

The two phases of construction will add 27,899 square feet of space to the facilities at 980 Airport Road.

Phase I includes plans for a new gym, a weight-lifting room and a new jogging track. In addition to a second access point, Phase II focuses on the addition of a child care center.

Town Council member Lee Pavao said the council agreed to the expansion because the YMCA, built in 1975, needed more space to adequately conduct programs.

"The facilities are overtaxed," Pavao said. "They are used so much and the town has grown so much, but they haven't had any facility growth."

Despite the obstacles involved in reaching the permit agreement, council members have expressed support for the YMCA's expansion efforts.

"This is a great outcome for the YMCA," Bateman said. "I was glad we were able to accommodate them as well as we could."

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

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UNC Softball vs. UNC-Wilmington
3:00 pm at Finley Field

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Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m.
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free and open to the public

INTEGRITY in POLITICS

Johnston Scholars Issues Forum 2000

Campus Calendar

Today
3:30 p.m. - Dr. Susan Carey of New York University will present a lecture entitled "The Origin of Concepts: Evolution and Culture" in 112 Davie Hall.

The event is sponsored by the Cognitive Science Program and is free and open to the public.
5:30 p.m. - The Newman Catholic Student Center will present **Student Night-Talent/Non-Talent night**. Come see the talent (or lack of) of Newmans after the student night dinner.
The event is free, and the public is welcome.

Thursday
10 a.m. - Dr. Susan Carey of New York University will be giving a lecture in Davie Hall.
The event is free, and the public is welcome.
For more information, call 962-4001.
7 p.m. - The 2000 Johnston Issues forum will be held in the Carroll Hall auditorium.
The topic for the forum is "Integrity in Politics" with keynote speaker Ed Turlington, campaign manager for Bill Bradley for president.
The forum will be moderated by Provost Dick Richardson.
The event is free, and the public is welcome.

History of Sports At Carolina Women's Athletics

Thursdays April 20 - May 4 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Join the UNC General Alumni Association for an in-depth look at the storied history of The University of North Carolina's women's athletics programs.

Jan Boxill, The "Voice of Tar Heel Basketball" will join former and current players, coaches and others close to women's athletics at UNC.

- April 20 Women's Athletics Prior to Title IX
- April 27 Women's Athletics Under the AIAW
- May 4 The Present and Beyond: Women's Athletics under the NCAA

Location: George Watts Hill Alumni Center, UNC Campus
Registration and Tuition Information: \$25/person; GAA members pay only \$15; UNC students admitted free with current UNC ID
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