

# UNC Could Buy 2 Lots for Expanded Parking

By Emily Steel  
Staff Writer

UNC officials are looking to convert two residential properties into parking lots for employees of the Kenyon Cheek-Rebecca Clark Building and the co-generation facility.

go to [dailytarheel.com](http://dailytarheel.com)

Take a look at the location of the two potential parking lots.

Final investigations into the purchase of two adjacent lots, located on the corner of South Graham Street and Cameron Avenue, are under way.

A real estate agent representing former UNC housekeeper Rebecca Clark, the owner of the property for whom the Cheek-Clark building is named,

approached the University with the proposal to buy the lots located at 602 Cameron Ave. and 128 S. Graham St.

"It was an unsolicited request from the owner's real estate agent," said Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for planning and construction. "We have been looking to solve the problem of parking for some time, and this is an opportunity we really have to take advantage of."

The University is interested in this property because maintenance shops located on main campus are being relocated to the Cheek-Clark building, he said.

Tommy Griffin, chairman of the Employee Forum, said extra employee parking on this area of campus is needed

to accommodate the growth of the Cheek-Clark building. "There is not enough (parking) in some areas of campus, but it is even worse out there," he said.

The building now is being renovated to accommodate new maintenance shops. The number of employees working at the facility will increase from about 100 to 150 when the renovations are completed next spring.

"(A new parking lot) won't be a fix," Griffin said, "but it will be a help."

Runberg said he plans to meet with neighbors to discuss how to incorporate a parking lot in a residential area.

He said the University will work to develop a proper amount of buffering that will consist of trees, shrubs and fences. "We want to make sure it is not

offensive," he said.

But Cam Hill, a Chapel Hill resident for 25 years who ran for mayor in 2001, lives near the property and said he does not want to live next door to a parking lot. "This is just one more erosion of a neighborhood in Chapel Hill by the University," Hill said.

Though the land is in a residential area, Runberg said, "There is a parking lot right across the street. It is not as if this is something new."

The sale price and exact size of the property is waiting on property appraisals, said Stephen Condrin, University property officer.

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## RESTRICTIONS

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idence halls. "The usage rates have been down across the board," he said.

In a poll given to residents that asked how the drought had affected their water usage, 80 percent said they used less water. The increase in student awareness has been helped by the Water

Wars program. Part of Every Drop Counts, Water Wars pits residence halls against each other to see who can lower water consumption the most.

Unlike Every Drop Counts, the fate of Water Wars is not decided. Bradley said the University Housing and Residence Hall Water Conservation Task Force will meet today to decide if Water Wars will continue.

In the meantime, Every Drop Counts

has been imbued with necessary resources. DuBose said the program recently received \$307,000. This mostly will help pay for the recently installed water-free urinals and the water stills.

With drought concerns winding down and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority recently eliminating water restrictions, complacency might be expected. However, OWASA officials are not ready to throw caution to the wind.

OWASA spokesman Greg Feller expressed concern about the reprieve from the drought. "We are concerned that there may be more dry weather," he said.

Erring on the side of caution, officials

have put triggers on Chapel Hill and Carrboro's reservoirs in case another dry spell approaches. The safety measure will come into effect when the level of water in the reservoirs falls below 125 days of available water usage. The area now has 320 days of water remaining.

The next time area water restrictions become necessary, Elfland said, UNC will be prepared. Until then, she said, students should continue to follow basic water conservation measures. "We would still encourage people to turn off the water when they are brushing their teeth."

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## RAMSHEAD

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"I was not very happy when I received the e-mail because I was expecting to have the deal for another month," senior Katie Williamson said.

But Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for planning and construction, said the Ramshead project is on schedule.

"We originally planned for Phase II to begin after the last home football game," he said. "That is why we are starting this week."

Phase II will involve the excavation of the existing parking lot and construction of site utilities, which include storm water, steam water and chilled water lines.

As part of Phase I, which began in September, workers built a temporary 240-space parking lot on Ehringhaus Field to accommodate the closing of the

\$5 lot. Workers also installed steam water lines extending from Carmichael Residence Hall to the northeast portion of the \$5 lot.

Runberg said Phase II will require more time than Phase I.

"Site work is always the most difficult part of a construction project," he said. "But once we get through Phase II, we will have a better idea of where we are at in terms of the project's schedule."

The utility lines will run beneath a pedestrian bridge that will connect North and South Campus. Other lines will run beneath Ridge Road, which will be turned into a one-lane road when workers install the lines.

The final phase, scheduled to begin in March 2003, will involve the construction of the building's physical structure. The projected completion date is Jan. 27, 2005.

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## ASG

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conduct everyday business.

He also praised the efforts of ASG members in educating voters about the necessity of voting in the Nov. 5 election.

"Student leaders showed tremendous gusto," Ducote said. "(We) got the message out."

Ducote said he was interested in the way things would turn out on the state level rather than in any particular race.

Delegates also mobilized to prepare for ASG Student Day at the Capitol on Feb. 4.

Melody Rogers, chairwoman of the Public Affairs Committee and a student at UNC-Chapel Hill, said she will set up three committees to ensure the event is properly publicized and organized.

The shift in control of the legislature

from Democrats to Republicans increases the need for a united student voice, Ducote said.

He emphasized that the lack of real leadership in either chamber means delegates will face more factions and coalitions when trying to deliver their message.

Ducote said students need to participate in Student Day at the Capitol to show legislators how powerful the student voice is concerning issues such as funding enrollment growth and keeping tuition affordable.

"(It's a) coming out day, if you will," Ducote said. "We're here and very serious about these issues. The future of this state depends on a well-funded public university system. It's going to be an exciting time, and you will make it happen."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

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RYAN ELLER  
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a novel by Gwendoline Fortune

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