

# Carrboro OKs access road

## Road would go through park

BY JENNIFER POGUE  
STAFF WRITER

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen gave the green light Tuesday for construction of a connector road through yet to be constructed Hillsborough Road Park that would link Hillsborough Road and Pathway Drive.

As of yet, there are no set facility plans for the park, which will occupy a 10-acre piece of land on Hillsborough Road across from Dove Street.

Planning committees have focused mainly on the parking situation. According to the plan, parking will run along the new road, which will be built along an existing roadbed to minimize pavement additions.

The board voted to research allowing parking along only one side of the street, building a drop-off island where children could exit cars safely and including traffic calming features such as speed bumps.

Mayor Mike Nelson said he expects to reduce the number of spaces planned, hoping instead that patrons will choose to walk to the park.

"I believe we have come up with a plan that respects the need for recreation space in Carrboro," Nelson said.

Nelson said a connector road is necessary in that area because all other roads that connect to Hillsborough Road between Bluebridge Road and Pathway Drive are dead ends.

The lack of connector roads can hamper emergency vehicles by adding several minutes to response times, Nelson said.

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist, who cast the lone dissenting vote against the connector road plan, said she strongly opposes building the road because of high construction costs and space constraints within the park.

Without the road, the park would cost the town about \$750,000, according to Anita Jones-McNair, Recreation and Parks Director.

Gist said her preferred plan would feature parking lots at both

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MIKE NELSON, CARRBORO MAYOR

ends of the tract of land, which she says would occupy 1 acre compared to the 3 acres a connecting road would require.

Gist said she doubts emergency vehicle access has been a problem in the Pathway Drive area.

Instead, she said the board approved the connector road merely to comply with the Connector Roads Policy. The policy, conceived over a decade ago, was designed to help link new and old areas of Carrboro for both aesthetic and practical purposes.

"(The policy) is a good idea in theory but needs to be looked at situation-by-situation," Gist said.

Alderman Diana McDuffee supported the connecting road plan. McDuffee, who lives on Pathway Drive, said there is significant need for another road.

Without the connection, only Parkview Avenue and Spring

Valley Road would provide vehicular access.

The next decisions to be made will concern facilities at Hillsborough Road Park. Nelson said he hopes to discuss the park within the next six months, after the budget is decided.

Carrboro Town Manager Steven Stewart said the park could be designed as active, with more facilities such as game fields, or passive, with more open space.

Nelson and McDuffee both suggested the construction of a soccer field in the park.

Gist noted that it would be nice to have a soccer field but said that she hopes to keep the park open to everyone. Both Nelson and Stewart agreed that the community would decide what went into the park.

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## SHELTER

FROM PAGE 3

agement of the shelter immediately. "We need to get this task force moving. We need to take more of a direct control of what's happening."

Commissioner Moses Cary agreed with Jacobs that the interim period should be used for planning the future operation of the shelter. "I would encourage us to make a decision tonight that buys us some time," he said.

Margaret Brown, chairwoman of the board, said she strongly believes APS should not continue to manage the shelter, even during the five-month interim period. "I don't have any confidence in the organization."

Link said that the recommendation was based purely on the con-

cept of interim operation and that the board should treat it as such.

Humane Society members and residents who spoke at the meeting were critical of APS.

Dean Edwards, director of the society, said his group would do the best job making "decisions that will affect the lives of thousands of animals. We're very staunch in our support of animals," he said.

Beverly Rockhill, a former volunteer at the shelter, said she stopped volunteering at the shelter because of APS' treatment of customers.

She said she was sick of "apologizing for poor management or insensitive behavior."

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## AGE

FROM PAGE 3

excluded from the Raleigh City Council ballot because of his age — he was 20 years old when he ran for office.

He later successfully sued to get his name on the ballot because he would turn 21 by the term's start.

"(The age restriction) seems unfair for students, especially in areas like Greenville, where one-third of the population is students and they have no say on their city council," Ducote said.

Stevens said those who are eligible to vote, marry, write a will or be drafted also should be able to run for office.

"I'm not sure if the public would elect them, but they ought to have the right to seek office."

Younger candidates are more in

touch with student-related issues, said Amanda Devore, ASG's vice president for legislative affairs. "A lot of students feel the effect of decisions made by city councils and the House," she said.

Legislators' response to the bill has been relatively favorable so far, Ducote said. "They have been willing to talk about it, and I think it resonates well with them."

But there might not be support across the board. Rep. Edith Warren, D-Pitt, expressed mixed sentiments about the proposed legislation.

"Students have a great contribution to make while in school in regards to elected office," she said. "But there also needs to be a certain level of life experience."

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## TUITION

FROM PAGE 3

totaling \$457,40.

WCU Student Government Association President Heather List said she has been involved openly in the decision, citing a tuition forum during which student government and administrators addressed student concerns.

UNC-Charlotte students aren't in favor of a tuition increase, but UNC-C Student Body President Stefanos Arethas said he thinks it's only a standard reaction from students based on their lack of information about the problem.

"They just hear, 'You pay this, now you have to pay this,'" he said.

"They don't see the justification behind it."

Despite his reservations, Arethas said he sees a definite need for tuition hikes. "If we want to be at the level we want to be at, the funding has to be there," he said.

N.C. State University students have been the leaders in opposing campus tuition hikes in the UNC system. They are facing a proposal similar to UNC-CH's.

"Given the economic climate ... this would be the worst time to raise tuition," said Amanda Devore, a member of NCSU's Tuition Task Force. "A lot of parents of students have lost their jobs, not to mention students that are trying to work their way through college."

The NCSU Student Senate passed a resolution Nov. 12 condemning a tuition hike. Student members of the Tuition Task Force also voted against the hike, along with Tom Stafford, vice chancellor for student affairs, and accounting Professor Harriette Griffin.

"I think if you look across the system, other students aren't really supporting an increase," said Natalie Duggins, assistant to the NCSU student body president. "Traditionally, universities base their decisions on what Carolina does. ... That's a sad way to run our system."

Jonathan Ducote, president of the UNC-system Association of Student Governments, concurred

with NCSU's caution and predicted that students will receive few dividends from tuition increases. "The net return that the campus gets is negligible. It's just another drop in the bucket."

Ducote said he attributes the varied reactions to tuition increases at UNC-system schools to whether the various student body presidents think students can afford the increases.

"People are asking for tuition increases, and they are providing loose justification," he said. "They are essentially asking students to write them a blank check."

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## RADIOTHON

FROM PAGE 3

Herman said.

The radio stations also will ask listeners to make a donation of about \$20, which Herman said is a reasonable amount. "I think that's a fairly small donation, and to raise a lot of money off small pledges is impressive."

The Simpson family emphasized that raising money for the hospital is important to them.

"I know how much the kids in the hospital need the money," Rebecca said. "It's a way to say thanks."

She said that during her time in the hospital, doctors and nurses made her feel at home, and her parents agreed that the treatment was extraordinary.

"We've had such a phenomenal experience there, seeing how much they've given and how much they need," said Emmaline Simpson, Rebecca's mother.

"We want to do what we can to

help them get what they need."

Jeff Simpson said the kindness of the hospital staff played a role in his decision to help with the radiothon.

He said that his family has done other, unseen things to help cancer patients but that "this is a visible thing."

He added that he hopes to stay involved with the hospital in the future. "I would like to, if they'll let me," he said. "They might not like me as much as I like them. Fortunately, I have a wonderful daughter."

Rebecca said she also would like to volunteer with the hospital in the future to help raise much-needed money and to offer a message to cancer patients.

"I hope that I can show people that there's always hope and they can get better," she said.

"Even if you're staying at the hospital, it could be worse."

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