

# Town Council holds off on development's plans

BY DAN SCHWIND  
SENIOR WRITER

Developers of the proposed Wilson Assemblage will have to wait at least two more weeks before getting the go-ahead for its project. Chapel Hill Town Council members discussed several issues surrounding the construction of Wilson Assemblage on Monday before agreeing to delay discussion of the project's special-use permit until its Feb. 28 meeting. "We need to look at this some more and get some firm discussion," said council member Bill Strom.

The proposed mixed-use development would be constructed just northeast of the intersection of U.S. 15-501 and Erwin Road and would include 149 dwelling units, with 48,000 square feet of office/retail space and 402 parking spaces.

One of the biggest discussion points Monday centered on the future of a 1930s-style farm house that sits near the proposed development north of Dobbins Drive.

As part of the N.C. Department of Transportation's proposed Superstreet project to widen U.S. 15-501, Dobbins Drive would have to be shifted 25 to 30 feet northward, bringing it within 23 feet of the historic house.

Several council members worried about what would happen to the house after the road shift, suggesting that preservation efforts be examined.

"I think it would really serve as a reminder for what we used to be," said council member Dorothy Verkerk. "I would like to see this landmark stay where it is."

Council member Jim Ward also said he thinks that efforts should be made to preserve the house. "We've got to work hard ... and exhaust all options to save that house before it's too late," Ward said.

But Jack Smyre, principal of The Design Response Inc., the firm hired to obtain the special-use permit for Wilson, said preserving the house could be difficult.

"The shift in the road takes out literally everything in front of the house," he said. "Something would have to give."

Residents also spoke out about the development, expressing concern about the project's impact on local traffic patterns.

Harvey Krasny, a resident of the nearby Summerfield Crossing, said the project will cause already congested local traffic to worsen.

"I think everyone on council is a rational and reasonable person," he said. "I don't think rational and reasonable people would allow a neighborhood already plagued by traffic problems to endure more."

Rich Harris, a resident of Erwin Village, said he is worried that a proposed cut-through to McGregor Drive would cause more traffic in surrounding neighborhoods.

"Take a look at that neighborhood," he said. "With that kind of increased traffic, I can't imagine there wouldn't be a safety issue."

Mayor Kevin Foy said he sympathized with the neighbor's concerns, saying it is important to make sure the council doesn't pass a resolution for one subject only to create another problem in doing so.

"We see the difficulty in opening the corridor," he said. "We're not interested in creating a situation that we then have to rectify."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ A breaking and entering was reported at 7:30 p.m. Friday, resulting in the theft of \$1,020 worth of property from a residence at 102 Isley St., A, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect smashed open a window pane and unlocked a door to gain access to the residence.

A baseball cap, several pairs of sneakers, a digital camera, a CD player, a Sony Playstation, a controller and 10 DVDs were all stolen, reports state.

According to reports, both victims were students at UNC.

■ A Chapel Hill man was arrested at 1 a.m. Saturday for felony possession of marijuana with intent to sell and distribute at a nightclub at 157 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Darnell Anthony Elliott, 31, of 1105 N.C. 54, A6, was found at the discotheque Alley Oops TreeHouse with 9.5 grams of marijuana.

He will appear April 14 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

Two men also were cited for possession of marijuana about 11:30 p.m. Saturday at the same night-

club, reports state.

According to reports, Keith Kareem Parks, 19, of 1320 Ferguson Road, was attempting to get into the club when security discovered 1 gram of the drug in his possession.

Anthony Tyrone Farris, 21, of 202 Torain St. in Hillsborough, also was cited for possessing 7 grams of the substance.

■ Two East Chapel Hill High School students were charged with possession of marijuana after a traffic stop at about 2 p.m. Saturday, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Patrick Aaron James, 19, of 220 Bluefield Drive, was stopped in a green 1994 Oldsmobile Cutlass at 117 Old Durham Road.

He presented an altered identification to police officers and possessed 14.2 grams of marijuana, reports state.

Emily Kaitlyn-Ashley Newgard, 16, of 664 Brookview Drive, was also in the car and was found to be in possession of 4.8 grams of the drug and a marijuana pipe, reports state.

Newgard, who was only given a citation, was charged with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

James was arrested and charged

with possession of marijuana and an altered license, reports state.

Both will appear April 4 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ Two Carrboro teenagers were cited at midnight Saturday for underage possession of a malt beverage, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Miska Aslan Sispilainen and Leah Lawrence, both 17, were cited at Umstead Park off Umstead Road and were turned over to the supervision of a sober adult.

All the beer was poured out, reports state.

Both will appear April 18 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A teenager was cited for possession of marijuana about 10:20 p.m. Saturday after a traffic stop on North Greensboro Street, Carrboro police reports state.

According to reports, David Anthony Baldwin, 17, was in the back seat of a red Hyundai that was stopped because of a license plate violation.

When officers asked if he had any drugs, he produced 14 grams of marijuana, reports state.

# School board evaluates year

BY RYAN C. TUCK  
CITY EDITOR

While some of the city schools' priorities for next school year are exciting local advocates, a perennial concern is giving them fits.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education began its annual planning retreat Monday by lauding plans for high school reform but criticized

the district's ongoing minority achievement gap.

"We're no further along this year than last year," board

Vice Chairwoman Liz Carter said of the achievement gap. "We're struggling to do what we're supposed to do every day: educate children."

Nettie Collins-Hart, assistant superintendent for instructional services, and Diane Villwock, director of testing and program evaluation, were peppered with questions

regarding the district's minority achievement, as evaluated in last month's district report card on black and Latino student progress.

"In a district that prides itself on education for all, I don't know what to say to minority students who don't get help," Carter said after the presentation.

Collins-Hart and Villwock were reluctant to accept some board members' assertion that the district was letting kids down.

Collins-Hart pointed to the section of the report card that shows that the district continued closing gaps between black and white students last year, including a 7 percent reduction in the mean gap in reading for third through eighth grades.

"If you analyze the data, the question is whether we are doing the best things to implement and achieve our goals," Collins-Hart told the board, adding that the gap is closing, but not fast enough.

Increasing tutoring opportunities

and having more curriculum monitoring from school principals were offered as ways to close the gap.

But Carter said she didn't want to be discussing the same "abysmal" gap in test scores next year. "Other districts don't have as many resources or the capable staff that we do, and they're doing more," she said.

Discussion surrounding the district's efforts in high school reform was less divisive.

Sherril Martin, director of secondary education programming, said the district's primary goals in reform are increasing collaboration with other districts, increasing the diversity of current learning academies and coordinating curriculums with the schedule change.

The school board voted in December to create a hybrid block schedule that would consist of seven 50-minute periods, some of which could be combined to 100-minute periods lasting for either a semester or the entire school year.

Martin said the proposal for curriculum changes under the new system has been sent to each school.

Only courses that are not segmented will be adapted to the block schedule, Martin said.

Advanced Placement, career and technical education, math, and foreign language courses will remain under the same schedule.

Regarding collaboration, Martin and board members alike praised the district and Orange County.

Citing recent developments such as the middle college program — a new high school at Durham Technical Community College that will open to both city and county school students this fall — board members called this year's collaboration unprecedented.

"By next planning retreat, we hope to have lots of results," Martin said of the district's reform efforts.

The district's nutrition policy and planning for high school No. 3 were also mentioned and will be revisited today.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## 6th Annual WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH DAY

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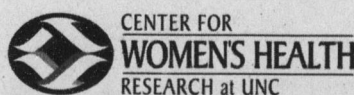
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## CORRECTIONS

■ Due to a reporting error, the Feb. 14 article "BOG's choice upsets UNC" states that all 16 UNC-system campuses pitched tuition proposals to the Board of Governors and that they had 15 minutes to do so.

Only 13 campuses gave pitches, and they had longer than 15 minutes in which to make their cases.

■ Due to a reporting error, the Feb. 14 article "Group praises decision to eliminate Bell Award" states that Chancellor James Moeser has formed a committee to examine issues relating to the former Cornelia Phillips Spencer Bell Award. He actually has called for the formation of two groups — one to examine guidelines for historical names on buildings and one to look at a possible successor to the Bell Award.

■ Due to an editing error, the Feb. 14 photo accompanying the article "Law enforcement saw early diversity" erroneously attributes it to the DTH. It is courtesy of the Chapel Hill Police Department.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at [c.coletta@email.unc.edu](mailto:c.coletta@email.unc.edu).

## The Daily Tar Heel

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