

Locals go green on Earth Day Council to take up alcohol proposal

BY MELODY GUYTON
STAFF WRITER

Orange County was painted green this weekend as Earth Day's 35th anniversary brought about a flurry of activity.

Two local events held in honor of the national holiday were the Earth Action Fest on Sunday, consisting of a march down Franklin Street and an activities fair at the Lincoln Center on Merritt Mill Road, and the Piedmont Farm Tour, which gave attendees the chance to visit 30 local small farms all weekend.

Many organizers and attendees said such programs are needed to raise environmental awareness.

"We're here to educate," said Brian Kinahan, chairman of the festival's planning committee.

"If people believe both that there are problems and that there are actually solutions, we can make some progress."

Kinahan said he was pleased with the attendance at the first year of Earth Action Fest.

About 50 people gathered in McCorkle Place before the march Sunday afternoon. By the time the crowd reached the fair, chanting all the way, that number was more than 100.

Featured at the fair were about 60 booths that offered everything from information about energy efficiency and hybrid vehicles to naturally produced goods and food.

Kinahan said organizers will donate some of the money raised by the booths to Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools for the purchase of



DTH/BRADY NASH

Sophomore Dan Michael wears bottles and cans he collected from Franklin Street. His demonstration was part of myriad local Earth Day celebrations.

green power, or energy derived from renewable sources.

University sophomore Lauren Dunbar said she hopes the event will bring attention to what she thinks is an important cause.

"A lot of people think (the environmental movement) is dead," she said.

"But they need to understand that it's still very much alive, and they need to be aware of its changing issues."

Many of those topics were also touched on at the Piedmont Farm Tour, held Saturday and Sunday afternoons on farms throughout Orange County and surrounding areas.

"The average distance food travels from the farm to the plate is 1,500 miles, producing high fuel costs, air pollution and a number

of other environmental problems," said Tony Kleese, executive director of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, a tour sponsor.

"The practices of the farms we feature are environmentally sound."

The tour gives farmers the chance to show how locally produced goods are better than mass-produced ones, said Portia McKnight, co-owner of the Chapel Hill Creamery.

"It's a real opportunity for us to explain to our customers what goes into our product," she said.

Visitors to the creamery viewed cows, saw milking demonstrations and pasteurization and were able to buy fresh cheese.

Pittsboro resident Pamela Hirsch said the tour was enlightening.

"A lot of people who buy things at the store have no idea where their food comes from or how it's made," she said.

Kleese said such knowledge might bring about change.

"People should be an activist with every bite," he said. "It can be more powerful than the vote."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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BY LAURA OLENIACZ
STAFF WRITER

Members of a local economic group are watching in anticipation as their petition to legalize the sale of alcohol on town property makes its way toward approval.

The Downtown Economic Development Corporation presented the petition, which would allow for the sale and consumption of alcohol at specific community events, to the Chapel Hill Town Council early this month.

Corporation members have voiced support for alcohol sales, viewing them as a way to increase attendance at downtown events and to boost economic opportunities for businesses across town.

"We want the town to look at the ordinance so that this is an option," corporation chairwoman Andrea Rohrbacher said. "With the current situation, we can't even consider it."

The petition asks the council to slate the issue for final consideration May 9.

"I suspect the council's willing to consider any idea that comes out of the DEDC," said council member Mark Kleinschmidt.

The town is a key funding source for the corporation, which was formed last July and includes representatives from the town, University and downtown business sector.

While serving alcohol is not always appropriate, Kleinschmidt said, offering it at certain community events would create an environment adult crowds would enjoy.

"When you try to make every event fun for a 7-year-old, often only 7-year-olds have fun," he said.

But Kleinschmidt added that the council needs to consider a variety of issues before it can make a final decision.

Rohrbacher said she has been pleased thus far with the council's response to the petition.

"I see this as a sign that's a potential for approval, because it's not townwide," Rohrbacher said.

Under the ordinance, alcohol

would only be approved at select events restricted to the Wallace Parking Deck on Rosemary Street and town parking lots 2 and 5.

The events' sponsors would be responsible for upholding certain standards set by the town to ensure an event's safety and dignity.

"As we proposed it, the sponsor of the event would be responsible for paying for security," said town attorney Ralph Karpinos.

The corporation-sponsored summer events advisory committee is planning a summer event series, which could include both movies and concerts, in the hopes of increasing the downtown's vitality. The idea of providing alcohol at the series was the catalyst for the petition.

The committee now plans to keep this year's series alcohol- and smoke-free but thinks alcohol might be sold at future events.

"All this does is it gives an option to talk to the sponsors," Rohrbacher said. "It would be a money-making event."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

POLICE LOG

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Three men, including a University student and a member of the U.S. Air Force, were cited for assault after a fight at 167 E. Franklin St. on Saturday morning, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, David Donald Werry, 22, a senior economics major, and Scott Werry, 25, of 513 N. Graham St. in Charlotte, were both charged with simple assault.

Brian Andrew Robertson, of 22 Donelson St. in Fort Bragg, was cited for assault and battery.

According to reports, all parties involved were intoxicated. All are scheduled to appear June 13 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A traffic stop on the 300 block of Caldwell Street at 12:45

a.m. Sunday led to the arrest of two Chapel Hill men, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Christopher Keith Lunsford, 41, also known as Andre Quickwood, was arrested on a warrant for felony motor vehicle theft in Watauga County. He was taken to Orange County Jail to be held on a \$200 secured bond.

According to reports, Brian Keith Farrington, 34, of 226 Knolls St., was also arrested on a warrant for failure to appear.

He was taken to Orange County Jail to be held on a \$300 secured bond. He is scheduled to appear May 23 in Orange County District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

■ A Chapel Hill woman was arrested at noon Saturday and charged with forgery and fraud, both felonies, and possession of stolen goods, a misdemeanor, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Clarissa Briana Farrington, 33, of 703 N.C. 54 West, was arrested at 618 Weaver Dairy Road.

No further information was provided.

■ A Raleigh man was arrested

Sunday morning near U.S. 15-501 and Sage Road and charged with driving while intoxicated, Chapel Hill police reports state.

The blood-alcohol content of Kevin Brian Hedley, 32, of 8109 Tory Sound Court, was measured at .14 percent by the Intoxilyzer 5000, reports state.

He was released on a written promise to appear June 28 in Administrative Traffic Court in Chapel Hill.

■ An 18-year-old was cited just after midnight Saturday for underage possession of a malt beverage, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, Carol Michelle Wingler was seen walking on Pittsboro Road toward McCauley Street with an open can of Sparks, an energy drink with 6 percent alcohol by volume.

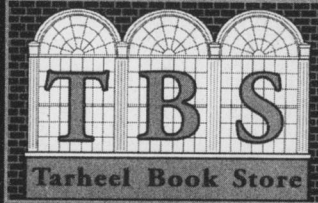
■ A strong-armed robbery occurred at 2:50 p.m. Saturday at 201 S. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill police reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect grabbed a pocketbook from the shoulder of a 34-year-old Durham woman, taking about \$207 worth of property.

CORRECTIONS

■ The April 22 corrections section inadvertently misspelled the real name of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who was elected pope earlier this month.


To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at c.coletta@gmail.com.



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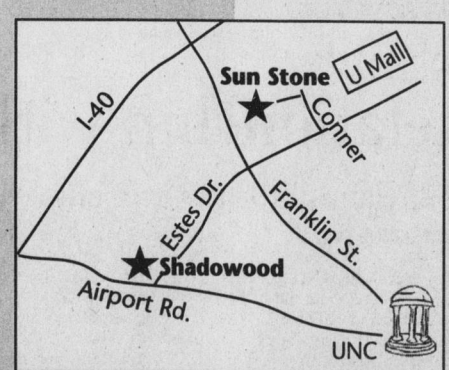
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