

Hillsborough assays Churton St. proposal

BY BRANDON REED
STAFF WRITER

Historic downtown Hillsborough soon will get a face-lift, but interested parties want to ensure the look is one everyone can live with.

Monday night, the Hillsborough Town Board received an update on the Gateway Center project, slated to house a new restaurant and several business offices and apartments off Churton Street.

The development's main hangup is the current outline of downtown Hillsborough, which might make it difficult to reach the retail and rental center.

Both N&K Street and Exchange Park Lane would cause problems for commuters trying to access the proposed development because the roads were never properly developed, said Brian Ketchum, a civil engineering manager with Summit Consulting Engineers who has been hired to redesign area traffic flow for the project.

Area residents echoed Ketchum's concerns at the meeting, stressing that the original plan eliminated left-turn access to and from Churton Street from the other roads.

Ketchum said the board now wants to combine the two roads to access Churton Street at one point.

"I know a lot of people don't go (to shops on the roads) because they can't get out," said Leon Lee,

"You are potentially satisfying one client and potentially hurting another, and in my view that's not right."

WALTER FARIBAULT JR., RIVERSIDE PROPERTY OWNER

who owns and operates Riverside Restaurant & Catering at 162 Exchange Park Lane. "Basically, it would be disastrous for that side of town if we shut it off."

Lee and Walter Faribault Jr., who own the property Riverside is built on, are worried that business would decline because no one would be able to access the area for short trips. They also are concerned that trucks would have difficulty turning around and exiting.

"What is happening here is you are potentially satisfying one client and potentially hurting another, and in my view that's not right," Faribault said.

Other locals are concerned about the potentially dangerous mix of pedestrians and vehicles the complex might create.

"It's 20 miles per hour, and you almost have to get clipped a couple of times to want to do the speed limit," said Lauren McGlynn, who lives in the area.

To realize the Gateway project, Hillsborough's redesign committee will have to accentuate the

area's small-town qualities.

"It'll change the view as you come into town," Planning Director Margaret Hauth said of the proposed changes.

Residents' suggestions have included putting parking lots behind new developments and erecting street signs to direct drivers toward businesses off the town's main thoroughfare, Hauth said.

"That's going to get more woven into our development guidelines," she said of suggestions.

Business owners can apply for façade grants to erect some of the signs, Hauth said, but there's still no clear source of funding for more expensive suggestions, including placing power lines underground.

The town is unable to pay for more expensive improvements and could not place the burden on the property owners, she said.

The re-worked plans will be up for board approval May 9.

Contact the City Editor
at citydesk@unc.edu.

Abbas backs down militants

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said Monday he expects Hamas to surrender weapons after Palestinian elections this summer, but he stopped short of threatening to disarm the Islamic militants by force.

A Hamas official dismissed the call, saying Abbas should first disarm his own Fatah movement.

In violence Monday, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian taxi driver after his vehicle ran over and killed an Israeli at a roadblock near the West Bank city of Hebron, rescue workers said. Israeli security officials said it appeared to be a deliberate attempt to hit the Israeli. Palestinians said that the driver had no political ties and that the roadblock was not permanent, indicating the hit and run was an accident.

Abbas has been under pressure from the United States and Israel to rein in armed groups, as called for in the internationally backed "road map" peace plan. While repeatedly calling on militants to halt their attacks on Israel, Abbas has refused to take action against them, preferring instead to negotiate.

Hamas has said it will take part in legislative elections set for July 17. It would be the first time the group has sought a place in the Palestinian parliament.

During a news conference at his office in Gaza, Abbas welcomed Hamas' desire to join the political process, but said the group, which has carried out dozens of suicide bombings against Israelis, would be expected to give up its militant

activities after the vote.

"When a movement or militia is transformed into a political party, I would say that there will then be no need for them to possess weapons," Abbas told reporters. "There will be only one authority, one law, and one legal gun. The issue is very clear, and this has been common practice throughout history."

However, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zohri said the Islamic group would disarm only when Israel ends its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, adding that

Abbas was in no position to preach to Hamas since the Palestinian leader has yet to disarm the military wing of his own ruling Fatah party, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades.

"The resistance is tied to the end of the occupation and not with joining the Palestinian parliament," Abu Zohri said.

The "road map" peace plan calls on the Palestinians to dismantle militant groups like Hamas, while also requiring Israel to freeze settlement construction. Neither side has carried out its obligations.

BUDGET

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port," he said. "It's going to take students telling our representatives that this can't stand."

Members of the executive branch have been working to provide students with a voice.

"We're trying to set up a pretty substantial lobbying program," said Student Body Treasurer Daneen Furr. "We're hoping to have students from all over the state contact local news publications to get local stories in the paper."

Student officials added a link to

their Web site — <http://www.unc.edu/studgov> — that connects students with their representatives.

Provost Robert Shelton said he hopes the General Assembly will listen to students' concerns.

"I do think it's important for the students to be heard on this," Shelton said. "I'm confident that the state is going to treat us well."

"There's a core understanding of the importance of higher education in North Carolina. I hope that will prevail."

Contact the University Editor
at udesk@unc.edu.

GREENWOOD

FROM PAGE 3

dents of Greenwood, but also of Chapel Hill," Chapel Hill resident Robin Cutson said.

But rezoning is upsetting to developer Tom Tucker, who wants to split up his lot at 715 Greenwood St.

The town received Greenwood's request for a conservation district in February. Tucker then submitted a request to subdivide his lot. The rezoning was proposed Feb. 28 after officials mulled Tucker's request.

Tucker has expressed frustration over the rezoning, calling it a suppression of his rights.

But residents countered that allowing subdivision would bring in duplexes and rental properties,

a future they say would stray from the neighborhood's intended path.

Preserving neighborhood character is at the heart of the applications for conservation districts.

The town has already implemented conservation districting in the Northside neighborhood.

The town has recommended staggering the system so it can address the needs of each neighborhood, but several citizens and council member Bill Strom are pushing for what he calls an "express conservation districting" system.

The council will hear a proposal May 9 on all three conservation district applications.

Contact the City Editor
at citydesk@unc.edu.

CHAMBER

FROM PAGE 3

A vital first step in creating a sustainable environment and local economy is education — the workshop's key goal, Ward said.

"I think that we have a very conscientious, progressive community," chamber Executive Director Aaron Nelson said. "Local businesses care about the community where they do business. This is where they raise their children."

Nelson thinks town government is doing a good job of improving economic diversity and environmental policy, but he said sparking social change in the area must go beyond officials.

This year's event only received about 90 reservations — a decrease of 60 from last year. Knapp attributed the decline to last weekend's well-attended events, including an Earth Day celebration, and not to a lack of interest.

Coby Linton, an architect for Dixon Weinstein Architects, PA, who attended the event to learn about better construction techniques and materials to use for his firm, said the topics discussed are relevant to the entire community.

"It helps to be aware of who else is doing it locally," he said. "You can never know too much about it."

Contact the City Editor
at citydesk@unc.edu.

COLLINS

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McFee, who gave the Writers Speak committee some suggestions, said that Collins has bridged the gap between "popular writer" and "poet" with his comfortable and funny style of writing.

He described Collins' work as the kind of poetry that would appeal to a large group of people.

"Poetry tends to have a smaller audience, but he's a popular poet with an audience," McFee said.

CUAB President Claire Anderson said she is excited about seeing

Collins on campus.

"His poetry is so incredible and approachable and charming," she said.

"I fell in love with some of his works."

Anderson also said she is pleased with the efforts of the Writers Speak committee this year.

"They've done an amazing job, and they've really tapped into something on this campus that's always existed: a strong community of writers and readers."

Contact the A&E Editor
at artsdesk@unc.edu.

SUTTON'S

FROM PAGE 3

residents.

Woodard took the first picture in 1981 of the "morning breakfast crew," many of whom still frequent the store, Pinney said.

"We basically started taking them of our best customers," Pinney said. "Then the next thing you know, everyone's asking for their picture on the wall."

The pictures that seem to garner the most attention are those of UNC's legendary athletes, including the 2005 men's basketball team.

Senior Melvin Scott, former point guard for the Tar Heels, has been known to frequent Sutton's as many as three times a day, and he said he is addicted to the store's cheeseburgers.

"This is the best place to come, man," Scott said. "Look around, everybody's smiling and laughing." Sutton's seems to mean some-

thing a little different to everyone.

Woodard said the store is much more than his livelihood.

"When you're happy with your work, there's not a lot more you can ask for," Woodard said.

While Woodard said he might see himself cutting back his work hours in the next five years, it's going to be hard to walk away from his store.

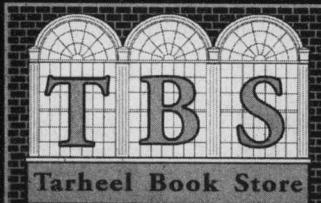
"There's nothing in this world like waiting on students," Woodard said. "They make it such a pleasure to work; they make you feel young."

Pinney's parents met at Sutton's in the late 1950s when his mother ran the cosmetics counter and his father worked behind the soda fountain.

But, Pinney said, everyone he gets to interact with at Sutton's is part of the family to him.

"As long as I'm breathing, this place will be standing."

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