

Town sees less sales tax, Lot 5 to be closed for 2 years must reduce spending

BY KATY DOLL
SENIOR WRITER

Consumers aren't the only ones cutting costs as local government makes moves to trim its budgets.

"What I've done is asked each department to give me a plan for how they might reduce their budget expenditures," Chapel Hill Town Manager Roger Stencil said, adding that he is compiling a town plan from this input.

Stencil will give an update on the town's budget at tonight's Chapel Hill Town Council meeting, presenting more specifics on what needs to be cut and what can be cut.

He announced Nov. 10 that the town expects to receive \$1 million less from sales tax for which they originally budgeted and will try to cut \$2.5 million.

The economic crisis has caused a drop in retail purchasing, mean-

ing less sales tax. By law, municipal budgets must be balanced and cannot go into debt like the national budget can.

Thus far, Stencil said, the town will review all vacant positions, cut any out-of-state travel and buy only critical purchases.

"We want to manage our budget in a way that we realize we are also spenders in the economy," he said. "We don't want to contribute to panic or a declining situation because we stopped spending."

Carrboro also budgets with sales tax in mind, but to this point they have not made any specific cuts, Assistant Town Manager Bing Roenigk said.

"We're reviewing our capital expenditures and reviewing all vacant positions before hiring," she said. "We're maintaining a watchful eye at this point."

One of the problems with the

situation is its lack of predictability, Stencil said.

Roenigk also noted that because budgets run from July 1 to June 30, there are only a few months on which to base their assessment.

Capital projects are one of the largest components of a budget, so they are a logical place to save, she said.

For Chapel Hill, the largest capital project on the horizon is the Chapel Hill Public Library expansion, which will come before the council again Dec. 8, Stencil said.

"Again, we want to be really thoughtful about what we do," Stencil said. "We can defer anything, but then we're not solving a problem, just deferring it."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

BY PATRICIA LAYA
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council is likely to approve a budget of \$83,400 for new parking spots that will replace Lot 5 during the construction of an eight-story development.

The town will open 106 new spaces in three locations downtown.

The lot, located between Franklin and Rosemary streets at Church Street, is expected to be closed for two years due to the construction of 140 West, a development of restaurants, boutiques and condominiums.

The town faced controversy when they approved leasing the lot to Ram Development for \$1 per year for 99 years.

Lot 5 currently offers 169 spots, 66 of which are privately leased.

"It will be an inconvenience, but the town is planning to provide additional spaces elsewhere," said Catherine Lazorko, Chapel Hill public information officer.

The potential opening of 15 spots on West Franklin Street, 18 spaces on West Rosemary Street and 73

spaces on private land owned by Joe Riddle and P.H. Craig in the West End would provide for most of the parking spots that Lot 5 offers.

"There are actually going to be more parking spots available to the public than there are now," said Meg McGurk, assistant director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership.

McGurk said the Partnership's goal is to notify employers, customers and visitors of the plans. The replacement parking spots are expected to be open by Jan. 1, even though construction on 140 West is expected to begin in early spring.

Richard Rich, who conducted Chapel Hill's downtown parking study, said the town "will be fine," if it follows through with its plans.

In the study, Rich suggested a shuttle system to transport people from spots that are farther away.

"It's going to have an impact on those who are used to parking there, so they're going to have to inform them on what the alternatives are," Rich said.

"There are ... going to be more parking spots available to the public than there are now."

MEG MCGURK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CHAPEL HILL DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

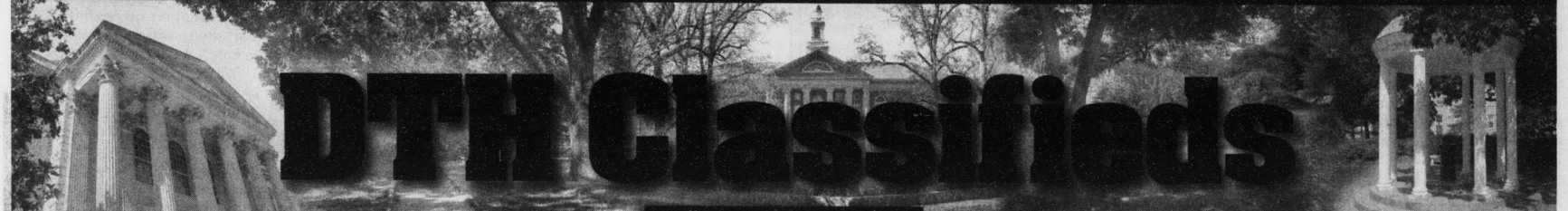
Brenda Jones, the town's parking superintendent, said the completed development will have two decks of underground parking; one will be public, but the other will be reserved for residents.

The Lot 5 spots will be most missed during lunchtime and weekend evenings, when it was usually full, Jones said.

Jones said the council is still unsure whether the replacement spots will still be open to the public after the development's construction is finalized.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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For Rent

2BR/2.5BA TWO STORY TOWNHOME off of Highway 54 bywoods. \$800/mo. \$800 deposit. Call 919-383-3111.

2BR BASEMENT APARTMENT. Free utilities, furnished, private entrance, on busline. Large living room, full kitchen, W/D, deck, bath with double vanity. Parking for 2 cars. \$750/mo. Available mid-December. No smoking or pets. Call 942-1027 or email chhouse1925@yahoo.com

FINLEY FOREST, 2BR, \$835/mo. 2BR/2BA condo for rent. Dishwasher, W/D, porch, upstairs unit. Available late November. On busline to UNC. \$835/mo. +utilities. 919-357-7741.

1BR/1BA APARTMENT. 116 North Street, right off Franklin Street. Fireplace, small covered front porch, W/D, water included. \$800/mo. Available August 2009. No pets. 919-685-0287. maxredic@carolina.rr.com

1BR/1BA CHAPEL RIDGE APARTMENT 3 bedrooms, gym, pool, tanning, W/D, carpeted, unfurnished. Coffee shop, wine bar. Spacious. Rent \$760/mo. Pictures, information available. 828-691-6580.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: 2BR FLAT, available for lease. Furnished W/D, dishwasher, microwave. For more information, contact williams.green@yahoo.com

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Help Wanted

Help Needed for a Healthy Environment
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Human Studies Division, located on the UNC Medical School campus, needs two students, with a minimum of two years of college, to perform student services. The hourly rate of pay is \$15.80. For more detailed information on the student services required and how to apply, please go to:
<http://www.epa.gov/oamrnp/q0900017/index.htm> (solicitation closes Dec. 5, 2008)
<http://www.epa.gov/oamrnp/q0900027/index.htm> (solicitation closes Dec. 14, 2008)
For additional assistance call Jo Ann at 919-966-6204.

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For Sale

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For Sale

5BR/2BA ON 611 Hillsborough Street. Completely remodeled, hardwoods and tile throughout, new appliances, W/D, near bus stop, \$2,500/mo. No pets, available August 2009. 919-685-0287. maxredic@carolina.rr.com

For Sale

WALK TO UNC or choose bus! Assume lease 1-1-2009. \$575/mo +security deposit. 2BR/1.5BA, W/D, AC, deck, pool. mjbames@unc.edu or weekdays 919-962-0531.

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LOST: 4GB SANDISK FLASHDRIVE. Red painted dot. Please call 919-619-1697.

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January 2009 1BR SUBLET

available in 3BR/2BA. 2 female roommates, walk to campus (Lindsay Street). \$420/mo +utilities. Email ijey15@emil.unc.edu or call 267-446-3002.

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Horoscopes

If November 24th is your Birthday...
Get involved in what's going on and you'll rapidly become a decision maker. You bring a new perspective that will be useful to them. Learn to keep a secret, fast.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Today is a 7 - If one door closes, you don't worry. Another will open soon. Make choices based on your long-term objectives. If you don't have any of those, make up something, fast!

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
Today is a 7 - Share the load with a person who's always ready to lend a hand. Even if you have to pay, it's a luxury you can afford. Besides, it's always good to spread the wealth around.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
Today is an 8 - It's just about time to get back to work. Today won't be that bad, but there'll be tons to do tomorrow. Prepare as well as you can.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
Today is an 8 - You'll have to be directive. If you want them to stay out of your kitchen, for example, make sure that's perfectly clear. If you need workers to help, don't wait for volunteers, draft them.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today is an 8 - Read the fine print, so you know what you're getting. Also be careful what you say, so you'll know what you're giving. Actually, you can afford to be more generous now.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Today is an 8 - Invest in a new tool to make your workplace more efficient. It's OK to make it more comfortable, too. Making yourself happy always makes things go better.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today is a 7 - You're an avid reader. You may not have had much time to indulge that passion lately. You can do it now, however. You can make the time.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today is a 7 - You have a lot on your mind, and that's perfectly OK. You'll have to make some decisions soon, so do the preparation. You already know some of the things you want to check, and you'll think of more as you go along.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Today is an 8 - Continue to give your friends guidance; they depend on you. They also like you to cheer them up when they get miserable. You love to do that, of course. It's one of your natural talents.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today is a 6 - Review your plans in light of recent changes. Make sure you pick out the right course, especially if others are following you. That's just one of the jobs you take on when you agree to be a leader.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today is a 7 - Meetings should go well. You'll inspire each other. You're on the team that figures out if these ideas will work, or you should be. Don't let your idealism cloud your analytical thinking.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Today is a 7 - You're at that awkward phase in a business where you have to figure out what to do to bring in money later. Do the numbers. Also, consult people who have successful businesses.

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