

New Chapel Hill teen center will open soon

By LISA BRANTLEY
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill's new teen center, The Street Scene, may be opening within a month despite slow progress on renovations, center director Jeff Gram said.

Housed in the basement of the U.S. Post Office on Franklin Street, the center is designed to be a weekend club for Chapel Hill and Carrboro junior and senior high school students.

According to Gram, it will be equipped with a dance floor, a wide-screen TV, a pool table and a bar from which to serve pizzas and soft drinks. Gram said many students have expressed interest in working behind the bar.

Space for the center, which would be able to accommodate 130-150 people, was approved by the Chapel Hill Town Council in December, and renovations to the donated rooms began in May. The council also voted to pay for utilities at the center.

Much of the renovation work and fund raising is being done by students, according to Gram. The center has received monetary support from individuals, local civic groups, school parent-teacher associations and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce in working toward their \$60,000 goal, he said.

Impetus for The Street Scene, which has been considered by local groups for several years, came largely from the complaints of teen-age area residents who felt that there was nowhere in Chapel Hill that served their entertainment needs, Gram said.

Tom Williams, a local ninth-grader who serves as co-chairman of the teen center's advisory council, said this lack of entertainment facilities resulted in teenagers just hanging around downtown on the weekends.

"Most of my friends on Friday and Saturday, we either go to someone's house or downtown," Williams said. "Hopefully the teen center will be a definite place for us to go."

Williams said that he and others had put many volunteer hours into the center this summer and that most people his age were very supportive of the project.

"A lot are skeptical because they think it (the center) will turn into a place they can herd us in and watch over us," Williams said. "But I don't think this is true."

The center is designed to operate through the use of volunteer workers and receipts from a small cover charge. It would sponsor mixers and occasional bands, Gram said, and the operation hours would probably be structured so that Friday nights are for junior high students and Saturday nights are for senior high students.

The use of college students as chaperones is being considered. Gram said he would encourage any interested UNC organizations to donate service time to the center or help with fund raising.

Seat belt use in Chapel Hill above national average

By KAREN YOUNGBLOOD
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill and Carrboro residents are buckling up. Forty-one percent of local citizens wear seat belts when in cars, said Bill Hunter, program manager for engineering studies at the Highway Safety Research Center.

To promote seat belt use, the Chapel Hill Police Department is holding a

contest. Hunter said police are observing cars and recording the license plate numbers of cars in which drivers are wearing seat belts.

Drivers wearing their seat belts may have their names announced on WCHL radio and win prizes for buckling up. A similar contest was held last year.

Compared to the national average of drivers wearing seatbelts, Chapel Hill

and Carrboro residents are doing well, Hunter said. The weekly percentage of local drivers wearing seat belts is 36-40 percent. The national average, based on a 19-city survey, is about 13 percent.

Hunter added that while there are no exact statistics for towns and cities in North Carolina, the statewide average is thought to be 6-8 percent, putting Chapel Hill and Carrboro far ahead of the rest of the state.

"There's no doubt that the campaign boosts the seat belt rate. It (the contest) gives a 12-15 percent boost to seat belt usage."

Hunter said that while most people

don't mind wearing their seat belts, they may forget to because of lack of habit.

Seat-belt use also depends on the education and position of the driver, Hunter said. Chapel Hill benefits from this because it has a large number of educated and affluent citizens.

Hunter said seat belts make a "heck of a difference" in saving lives. Two-thirds of the people who die in car accidents each year would have been saved if they had worn their seat belts, statistics show.

The contest is scheduled to end in mid-November.

Sex offense case suspect charged

A Chapel Hill man was charged with attempted second-degree sexual offense in the assault of a convenience store employee Sunday.

Manuel Lee Harris, 20, of Rt. 1, Box 322, Chapel Hill was arrested and released on \$18,000 bond and appeared before Orange County District Court Monday, according to Carrboro Police Chief Sid Herje.

Police said Harris entered a Carrboro convenience store, which Herje would

only identify as being located off Main Street, at about 3 a.m. Sunday. He grabbed the employee by the throat and demanded that she disrobe. Herje said the woman was physically hurt, but was able to hit the man and eventually chase him away.

The woman, who police would not identify, was treated at the Student Health Service and released. Herje said as far as he knew the woman was not a UNC student.

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Another Barfield appeal

From Associated Press reports

RALEIGH — Lawyers for condemned killer Velma Barfield turned to the North Carolina Supreme Court yesterday after a lower court rejected her latest appeal and refused to stop an execution that would make her the first woman in 22 years to be put to death in the United States.

The appeal to the high court was filed less than an hour after Superior Court Judge B. Craig Ellis rejected Barfield's request for a hearing. Ellis ruled after a 15-minute hearing that the issues about drug addiction during her 1978 trial had either been previously considered or waived because Barfield did not raise them earlier.

Barfield is scheduled to die by lethal injection at 2 a.m. Friday for poisoning her boyfriend, St. Pauls farmer Stuart Taylor. She has also confessed to killing three other people, including her mother, but has not been convicted in those slayings.

Barfield, 52, would become the first woman executed in North Carolina in 40 years if the execution proceeds.

News In Brief

Housing sales increase

WASHINGTON — Housing sales, led by a remarkable revival in the South, soared 21.9% in September, their best monthly increase in more than 4 years, the government reported yesterday.

President Reagan hailed the strong gain as proof that his economic policies are working and predicted further declines in interest rates would push sales even higher. But housing industry analysts questioned whether the September number was a fluke.

After being mired in a slump since February, sales of single-family homes climbed to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 679,000 units last month. It was the strongest one-month increase since a 26.8 percent jump in May 1980.

The housing industry has been hurt by rising interest rates, which pushed mortgage rates to a peak of 15.2 percent in July.

The ArtSchool needs volunteers

The ArtSchool, a non-profit center for the visual and performing arts, needs volunteers to assist with its programs.

Workers are needed for poster distribution, box office and house management, office and clerical work, building maintenance, construction and

sound and film technical work, among other areas.

The time commitments for these jobs vary.

The ArtSchool is located in Carr Mill Mall in Carrboro. Call 942-2041 for more information.

Student employment service has job listings

If you want a job, we've got them. Stop by the Student Part Time Employment Service in 207B Student Union,

Monday through Thursday from 1-4 p.m.

For the record

The DTH incorrectly reported that the "Democratic Unity and Voter Participation Rally" would be held yesterday. The rally is actually planned for today between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The DTH regrets the error.

continue publication this fall," (DTH, Oct. 30) it should have quoted BSM President Sherrad Banks as saying University officials could begin counting post-doctoral students as faculty members. He did not say this was being done now. The DTH regrets the error.

In Tuesday's paper, "Black Ink" will

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ALL HALLOWS' EVE

Anglican Student Fellowship and St. Gregory's Guild will observe ALL HALLOWS' EVE with prayers, reading, and music. October 31 10:00 p.m.

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Once again it's time for the spooks to stomp and the goblins to romp... we're all getting together to bay at the moon and quaff magic potions. Don't come as you are... wear your costume. (Those without costumes will be hexed.) First place prize for best costume is \$100, second place prize a case of Heineken and third place prize a case of Budweiser. Judging at 12:00 midnight. Due to the unpredictable weather and the reluctance of some persons (who shall remain nameless) we will not meet at the cemetery but at

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