

Town boards to meet for tree protection ordinance review

By AMY GRUBBS
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill is known for its trees. And the Chapel Hill Planning Department is trying to protect the existing trees by proposing a strict tree ordinance to the Chapel Hill Planning Board.

The planning board and Chapel Hill Appearance Commission will review the proposed ordinance at a joint meeting Wednesday. A public hearing will be held April 18 at the

Chapel Hill Municipal Building to present the matter to the public in detail.

Trees are currently protected in two ways by town regulations.

First, before anyone removes soil from a site, clears a site for development or uses any land to fill in an area, the town manager must issue a zoning compliance permit. This permit authorizes the individual or group to do something to a certain

piece of property, such as dig a trench. Second, the town established vegetative buffer standards to reduce the visual impact of unsightly development and to establish a sense of privacy on a piece of property.

But there are gaps in the present regulations. The planning staff's report said the current gaps include conserving rare trees, inspecting and maintaining required buffers, protecting soil during development, and penalizing activity which unnecessary destroys vegetation or soil.

The new ordinance would close these gaps through more specific and comprehensive requirements.

The new ordinance also would establish a new town employee called the town forester. This person would be responsible for supervising tree protection and would recommend improvements.

Claire Cooperstein, local issues chairwoman of the Sierra Club, said

the Sierra Club's main concern was saving trees in areas which are being newly developed.

"I care a great deal about this issue," Cooperstein said. "Not only is Chapel Hill the Southern part of heaven, it is the best side of heaven."

Cooperstein said she felt "a goodly majority" of town council members are in favor of a strong tree ordinance.

Planning board member Julian Rane said, "I can't speak for anyone but myself, but certainly I'm sym-

thetic to the trees. Still, people are more important than trees."

Rane said she felt the planning board would be sympathetic to the ordinance.

Planning board member Barry Credle said the key point of the proposed ordinance is its aim toward the new developers. The city wants the developers to try to preserve and protect the existing trees while they develop, Credle said.

Feeding the hungry

Inter-Faith Council, Church World Service co-sponsor walk

By CYNTHIA HOWARD
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro area will have its second annual CROP Walk for Hunger Sunday, April 24. The 10-kilometer walk will begin and end at Carrboro Elementary School.

The CROP Walk is sponsored nationally by Church World Service, a 40-year-old organization that has 28 national regions.

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, located at 207 Wilson St. in Chapel Hill, is the local beneficiary of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP

Walk. The Inter-Faith Council will receive 25 percent of the money raised by the walk.

The 25-year-old organization helps between 200 and 250 people a month with food, clothes and shelter.

Ann Sawyer, Inter-Faith Council chairwoman for individual services, said it looks promising that the amount of money raised this year will double last year's figure.

Bill Hoyle, Inter-Faith Council chairman for the CROP Walk, said the money received by Inter-Faith Council will be used to support local

food projects such as the community kitchen.

The remaining 75 percent of the money raised by the CROP Walk will be used to support the worldwide projects of the Church World Service.

Most of the recruiters and sponsors for the CROP Walk are from church congregations. "Anyone and any organization can join," Hoyle said. "All they have to do is pick up a sponsor's packet at the Inter-Faith Council."

"Last year we had all ages participating, from babies in strollers to

senior citizens," he said.

Billy King, Church World Service regional director, said the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area contributed \$12,000 to the \$1.2 million national figure raised by the CROP Walk last year.

"The Church World Service is helping countries like Mozambique to combat the suffering that goes along with famine and civil war," King said.

The CROP Walk will begin at 2 p.m. April 24, and walkers can begin registering at 1 p.m.

Summer drought unlikely, weather experts say

By TROY FURR
Staff Writer

Although Chapel Hill's water level has fallen 2 to 3 inches below normal, residents should not be concerned yet, said weather service specialist Wayne Jones Tuesday.

"The summer is usually the wettest season of the year due to the frequent

afternoon thunderstorms, and there is nothing that leads us to believe that this will not be true this year," he said.

"All it takes is two or three strong systems in a period of two or three weeks and we go from 2 inches below normal to 2 inches above normal in terms of the amount of rainfall

accumulated," he said.

The last storm system to go through North Carolina was only strong enough to offer relief to the mountains, he said, while the Piedmont and the Coastal Plains only got a few isolated showers and thunderstorms.

It is too early to tell if Chapel Hill will experience a problem with its water supply the way it did last summer, Jones said. "The unpredictability of a long-term forecast and the fact that it is so early in the season makes it very difficult to predict the kind of summer we will have," he said.

Meteorologist David Eichorn of WRAL-TV in Raleigh agreed.

"Nobody really knows what the weather will do. It is very unpredictable," he said. "We have become pretty accurate in forecasts of up to a week or two, but after that, the

weather gets harder to forecast and consequently our forecasts become less and less reliable."

March and April are typically the driest months of the year, and the Triangle area is actually better off now than it was last year at this time, he said.

But comparing weather patterns from year to year will not help to predict this year's rainfall.

"Comparison really has nothing to do with it. We were dry for different reasons last year," Eichorn said. Last year, too many people wasted water, forcing Chapel Hill into a drought, but the problem should not be as severe this year, he said.

"I am not worried about the possibilities of a water problem this year in Chapel Hill or the Triangle," he said. "As long as people are careful in their use of water, there should be no problem."

System

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Implementation of the system is a slow process, Lanier said. Installing the system and making it work properly will take 18 months to two years.

A referendum on the 1987 fall ballot requesting a \$5 increase in student fees to pay for the cost of the system did not pass. Students voted in favor of the increase by 5-1, but less than 10 percent of the student body voted on the issue.

Money to purchase the system came from a special account set up by the chancellor, Lanier said. But officials eventually will use money from an increase in student fees to reimburse the fund and pay any maintenance costs.

The fee increase will not take effect until students are using the system, Lanier said.

"There is no sense in requiring students to pay for a system that is not being used," he said. "The fee increase may be less than the original \$5, depending on whether the cost of the system is actually as much as we think it will be."

Officials in the registrar's office have reorganized a section of the staff to train other staff members on how to use the computer system, Lanier said. Training sessions will begin after installation, he said.

Lanier said he would not hire additional staff members to handle the switch to the new system.

"Right now, I don't intend to hire additional people, because my present staff may be able to take care of the conversion," he said. "But if assistance is needed, temporary staff members will be hired."

Permits

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Herzenberg said the only person who spoke in defense of the extension at a March 23 public hearing was Swecker, and no one spoke out against the extension.

Herzenberg said he had some concerns about parking, though.

"The University needs to create more long-range parking plans," he said. "I am not in general a supporter of parking decks."

Delegate Commitments

After Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis narrowly won the Colorado caucuses Monday, he took the upper hand in the race Tuesday by winning the Wisconsin primary as well, slowing his nearest rival's momentum for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. In the latest delegate counts:

Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis:	692 total
Tenn. Sen. Albert Gore Jr.:	382 total
The Rev. Jesse Jackson:	683 total
Ill. Sen. Paul Simon:	171 total
Others, uncommitted:	517 total
Needed to nominate:	2,082

With Sen. Bob Dole out of the Republican race, Vice President George Bush handily won both Colorado and Wisconsin over his only remaining rival, former television evangelist Pat Robertson. In the latest delegate counts:

Vice President George Bush:	841 total
Pat Robertson:	17 total
Needed to nominate:	1,039

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Since 1960, hormone levels

Pumping iron has replaced flower power. Pinstripes have replaced paisley. And Wall Street has replaced Woodstock.

But of all the major changes that have taken place since the 60's, one is hardly visible at all: the change that has taken place in the Pill.

In 1960, the Pill contained as much as 150 mcgs. of the hormone estrogen. Today, it's down to 35 mcgs. or less. That's a fraction of the original dosage.

Yet, today's Pill is as effective as yesterday's. In fact, it's still the most effective birth control available other than sterilization.

But is the Pill right for you? You should see your doctor to help you answer that. If the answer is yes, then the ultimate decision is yours. And it's important that you learn all you can about oral contraceptives.

First and foremost, what are the risks? Does the Pill cause cancer? Will it make you less fertile? Do you need to take a rest from it? These are just a few questions that have surrounded the Pill since 1960. Questions which must be addressed by you and your physician.

What about the Pill and breast cancer? Although there are conflicting reports concerning this issue, the Centers for Disease Control reported that women who took the Pill, even for 15 years, ran no higher risk of breast cancer than women who didn't. The CDC also reported that ovarian and uterine cancer are substantially less common among women who use oral contraceptives.

The Pill has been shown to have other health benefits as well. Pill users are less likely to develop pelvic inflammatory disease (tubal infections), benign breast disease, ovarian cysts and iron deficiency anemia, not to mention menstrual cramps.

But if the Pill is so effective at preventing pregnancy, can it later prevent you from having a baby when you're ready to have one? Studies

in the Pill have

indicate that if you were fertile before you took the Pill, taking it will not affect your ability to have children later. Some women may experience a short period of readjustment after discontinuing the Pill. Even so, most women usually become pregnant soon.

One piece of advice you may have heard if you're on the Pill is that you should take an occasional rest from it. Yet there's no medical basis for this advice. Furthermore, a rest could turn out to be anything but restful, since switching to a less effective form of birth control increases your chances for unplanned pregnancy.

Now that you know what the risks aren't, you should know what the risks are. For example, if you are taking the Pill, you should not smoke. Especially if you are over 35. Cigarette smoking is known to increase the risk of serious and possibly life-threatening adverse effects on the heart and blood vessels from Pill use. What's more, women with certain conditions or medical histories should not use the Pill.

Even if you're already on the Pill, you should see your doctor at least once a year. And read the patient information regularly.

Taking the Pill is easy. Deciding whether or not to take it isn't. That's why it's so important for you to make an informed decision. Continue reading everything you can about birth control methods. Seek out reliable sources. Talk to your doctor.

You've already taken a step in the

dropped considerably.

right direction. Just think, since you began reading this, there's a good chance your knowledge level about the Pill has increased. Considerably.

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