

CAMPUS AND CITY

Land revaluations spur complaints

By Paul Bredderman
Staff Writer

Orange County tax assessors have received numerous calls since Friday from residents who are worried that their property taxes will increase as the result of recent land revaluations.

County tax assessors sent property revaluation notices to about 40,000 Orange County residents last week, letting some know that the market value of their homes had increased during the past five years. Overall property values for Orange County have increased 15 percent since 1987, said county tax assessor Kermit Lloyd.

Lloyd said the "heavy" volume of calls his office had received from wor-

ried residents since Friday probably would not subside until the end of the year.

Assistant county manager Rod Visser said an increase in property value did not suggest a definite increase in property taxes.

But residents who received notice of property value increases of 15 percent or more — the county average — might pay more in property taxes, said Bob Bryan, president of the Chapel Hill Board of Realtors. But those with revaluations of less than the average can probably expect to pay less than they are currently paying, or lower-than-average property taxes, Bryan added.

Visser said the revaluation notices were not tax bills. "You won't know

whether your tax bill will go up, down or stay the same until June," he said.

Bryan said the increase in overall property values could be attributed to an increase in supply and demand for land and houses in the past five years.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners will decide in June whether to increase the county tax rate based solely on the budgetary demands of the next fiscal year, Visser said.

Bryan said he expected the county commissioners to approve a tax increase in June, largely because of the \$52 million school bond referendum passed by voters in the November election and because of the trend of rising operating costs of city and county governments.

Visser said because of the increased

county tax base, he expected the tax rate to drop from 84.25 cents per \$100 of property to between 74 and 78 cents.

"If the overall tax base is going up by 15 percent, then we're going to adjust the tax rate down... so the total revenue for the county does not change as a result of the revaluation," Visser said.

In the past 20 years, Orange County property values have been assessed in six-year increments, Visser said.

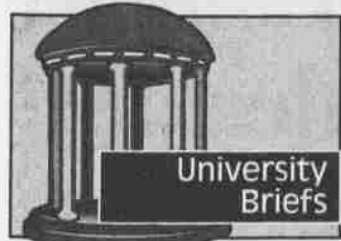
State law requires that revaluations be conducted every eight years. But recently, the county commissioners decided to assess property value every four years. The next revaluation will occur in 1997, Visser said.

Lloyd said residents who thought their property value was assessed incor-

rectly should contact the county tax assessor's office. "I really can't do anything about anyone's tax bill," he said. "I can only do something if the appraisal isn't correct to what that property would currently sell for."

Visser said that citizens could appeal the revaluation to the Orange County Board of Equalization and Review or further could appeal to the state Property Tax Commission. "We certainly hope we can resolve many of these questions at the local level," he said.

County officials will be available to answer questions at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Superior Court Room in the Orange County Courthouse in Hillsborough and on at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel Hill Town Hall, Visser said.



Dukakis to talk about Clinton health plans

Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis will discuss challenges facing President-elect Bill Clinton's national health-care policy in a lecture sponsored by the UNC health policy department and the administration of the UNC School of Public Health.

Dukakis' lecture, "The Clinton Administration and Health-Care Reform: Lessons from the States," will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Rosenau Hall. The speech is free and open to the public.

The 1988 Democratic presidential candidate will visit UNC at the invitation of UNC health policy and administration Professor Kenneth Thorpe.

Thorpe was named a member of the core group for Clinton's transition team on health policy last week.

The nationally known health economist was a health-care policy adviser to Clinton throughout his 1992 presidential campaign.

Dukakis' speech will address the current policy crisis based on the former governor's experience establishing one of the first statewide comprehensive health-care packages in the country.

Dukakis graduated from Swarthmore College and Harvard Law School.

He has taught public-policy classes at the University of Hawaii and currently teaches at Northeastern University.

Parties to proliferate at the Peach Bowl

If a major football bowl game isn't enough entertainment, UNC students making pilgrimages to Atlanta for the Peach Bowl may attend back-to-back parties before the game.

All ticket holders may attend the pre-game events free of charge.

The day will begin with a high school band march through downtown Atlanta from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Fans from both teams are then invited to attend the World's Largest Indoor Tailgate Party from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The party will be held in the Georgia World Congress Center, Exhibit Hall D, adjacent to the Georgia Dome.

The party will feature food, drinks and fun.

Fans can warm up for the game while tailgating at the Peach Bowl Pep Rally from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The rally will feature school bands and cheerleaders.

Group to work to aid day care in South

A group of eight Southeastern state leaders will work to improve state day-care regulations in a workshop designed by a UNC health education and behavior expert.

More than 10 million U.S. children younger than 6 receive out-of-home child care. Recent research shows current state day-care regulations are inadequate.

Researchers working in a joint project sponsored by the UNC School of Public Health and the University of Alabama at Birmingham and eight leaders from Southeastern states hope to improve regulations according to standards set by American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association.

The group will review regulations in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North and South Carolina and Tennessee and identify areas where regulations do not meet AAP and APHA standards.

Regional and state workshops will help to identify problem areas in child care and work to determine how those regions can improve.

The project will be funded by a \$32,000 grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

The principle investigator for the project is Carol Runyan. Runyan is the director of the Injury Prevention Research Center and is an associate professor of health behavior and health education in the School of Public Health.

Library offers winter tales from abroad

A chill is in the air and children can celebrate the wintry holiday season at Wilson Library by hearing festive stories from countries around the world.

Friends of the Library will present "Seasonal Tales Heard 'Round the World" free of charge for children and adults. The event is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 17 in the Wilson Library lobby.

The program will feature traditional and winter stories from all over the world as told by Teri Lomoureaux and Nancy Novotny.

Lomoureaux and Novotny are master's degree candidates in the School of Information and Library Science.

Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call 962-1301.



Well-soiled bulbs

Mandoline Blackburn, a sophomore from West Jefferson, plants tulips outside of her Carrboro residence Monday. Tulips must be planted early for spring blooming.

UNC Press set to roll into Brooks this spring

By Chris Robertson
Staff Writer

The UNC Press Building will have a quiet homecoming after operating in a temporary location for two years.

The press building was damaged severely in a Dec. 5, 1990, fire that engulfed the building in a 30-minute blaze. Fifty firefighters were called to control the burning building, located at the corner of Boundary Street and Hooper Lane behind the Forest Theatre.

After a two-year reconstruction process, the UNC Press Building soon will be ready for operation.

UNC Press now is operating in a temporary location in Franklin Square, near the Omni Europa Hotel. UNC Press representatives said they hoped to move back into Brooks Hall, the building that housed the publishing company, by April or May.

The press publishes scholarly and regional books and textbooks. Authors such as William S. Powell, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese and Jacqueline Hall have had their works published by the institution.

The press building was not equipped with a sprinkler system at the time of the

fire. The building did have smoke alarms, but the alarms did not go off in time to prevent the fire.

Sprinkler systems were not a requirement in Brooks Hall at the time of its construction because it was not a class building and not big enough to demand sprinklers, said Larry Johnson, who led the Chapel Hill Fire Department's investigation into the fire.

The new Brooks Hall will include sprinklers as well as smoke alarms, said Judy Bergman, UNC Press controller and assistant director. Construction on the building has included a new roof, windows and the erection of dry walls in the office areas.

"If you drive or walk by, you can see that the construction is going along very well," Bergman said. The building is scheduled to be finished around March or April, she said.

The project is expected to cost about \$1 million, Bergman said.

Ed Willis, director of construction administration, said the budget allotted \$751,000 for construction.

"The \$751,000 is solely for costs involving construction," Willis said.

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Yuletide Tour of Homes spotlights Chapel Hill's historic residences

By Shakti Routray
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Preservation Society will showcase historic homes in the Tenney Circle area of Chapel Hill for its annual Yuletide Tour of Homes Saturday and Sunday.

Dianne Day, administrator of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, said the tour had been conducted for the past 14 years with few exceptions.

"We do it every year, and the proceeds support all the activities of the

preservation society," Day said.

Day said the tour would teach residents, students and newcomers about Chapel Hill. "Anyone new to the community will learn something," Day said. "It is a wonderful opportunity to explore the community and to get to know it."

Glaxo Inc. of Research Triangle Park will provide free transportation to facilitate residents in viewing the houses. Ramona Jones, a spokeswoman for Glaxo, said the company had provided the service for the past few years.

Local students prepare for graduation party at Union

By Richard J. Dalton Jr.
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill High School students planning a graduation party to be held in the Student Union will be given a large degree of freedom in planning the event, according to Donald Luse, the director of the Student Union.

Project Graduation, an all-night, substance-free party for high school seniors and their guests, is held in many counties throughout the state.

"They are active participants," Luse said. "They are actively involved in providing their own security."

"(Students are) using good judgment in setting this up," he added.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Drug Abuse Task Force's Jim Huegerich, who has been involved since the party's initial planning stages more than two years ago, said that students also were involved heavily in its organization.

Huegerich said adults would help plan the party and would chaperone on the night of the event, to be held from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. June 10. He said he thought about 100 parents would work in two-hour shifts throughout the night.

Huegerich said parents of seniors would not help out because students did

not want their parents at the party.

Law enforcement officials also will work at the event for emergencies, traffic control and visibility to give the students a sense of control, he said. The party must have at least one University Police officer, but Huegerich said he did not know if the University would incur some of the costs.

Luse said the planners were unsure if they would need University Police on site. "We want to make sure there's an emergency plan in place," he said.

Luse said the students planned to take strict safety measures for the party, including a prohibition on alcohol, drugs and re-entering the party. Use of a metal detector also is being considered, he said.

Huegerich said that if the students had alcohol on their breath, they would be escorted home.

The planners of the party are trying to prevent someone's bringing a weapon or drinking in a car, he said. "Once you leave, you're out," Huegerich said.

Luse said, "You cannot protect against all things, but you can exercise good judgment."

"There are ways you can have fun, safe events and have control," he added.

But he also said the students were

paying rent for the use of Union facilities, so the University did not dictate what they could and could not do.

Luse said the students would use several Union areas, including Great Hall, the bowling alley, billiards room and Union Cabaret. He said they also may use the auditorium to show films.

Huegerich said the students would pay for utilities and the labor costs of security and bowling alley employees.

Huegerich said students chose the Student Union not only because of its facilities but also because high school students look up to University students.

In another attempt to encourage attendance, prizes and about five \$1,000 scholarships will be distributed to partygoers, Huegerich said.

Donald Boulton, vice chancellor for student affairs, said, "This is the first time the high school has asked to do this kind of event."

Luse said the absence of alcohol, which Boulton said was a requirement of Student Union parties, tended to reduce problems.

The University does not give priority to outside agencies, Luse said, adding that the graduation party did not conflict with any University events because it would take place in June.

Aid available for storm victims

By Rama Kayyali
Staff Writer

The U.S. Small Business Administration will provide physical and economic disaster loans to the victims of the severe storms that hit counties of North Carolina and a contiguous county in Virginia.

Severe storms hit Hillsborough in the early morning hours of Nov. 22 and caused the death of two residents and the hospitalization of 10. Physical damages in Hillsborough included the flattening of almost 40 homes and the damaging of more than 100.

Catherine Thom, who is a public information employee of the Small Business Administration in New York, said SBA was a division of the federal government that guaranteed loans primarily for small businesses.

Another function the agency performs is providing disaster relief in the form of loans to areas declared to be disaster areas, she said.

Renee Hoffman, director of public affairs for N.C. Crime Control, said SBA provided long-term assistance to disaster areas unlike immediate assistance provided by the Red Cross.

According to Hoffman, the SBA and the N.C. Division of Emergency Management assessed the damages in North Carolina to be \$9.3 million, including insured and uninsured properties. The

extent of the damages qualified Orange and Stokes counties for SBA loans, she said.

Thom said certain requirements must be met before disaster loans were guaranteed. She said an area must be declared a disaster area by either the president or the administrator of the SBA.

Thom said 25 homes and/or 25 businesses in a county must sustain major uninsured damages. "Forty percent or more of pre-destroyed property had to be uninsured," she said.

"In North Carolina, two counties met that — Orange and Stokes. Whenever an area is declared a disaster area, the contingent areas are included," she said.

Orange and Stokes counties and the surrounding counties of Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Person, Rockingham, Surry and Yadkin are eligible for the loans.

According to an SBA disaster loan fact sheet, there are three types of disaster loans: Home Disaster Loans, Business Physical Disaster Loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Home Disaster Loans are available to homeowners or renters to repair or replace related damage to homes or personal property that is owned by the applicant.

Business Physical Disaster Loans are available to businesses to repair or replace disaster-related damage to property owned by the business, including

inventory and supplies.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives to assist them through the disaster recovery period, provided they cannot obtain this type of assistance from nongovernment sources.

The victims requesting loans must show the ability to repay them. Physical loss loans in excess of \$10,000 and EIDL loans in excess of \$5,000 must be secured with collateral, the fact sheet stated.

Different interest rates and terms accompany the loans, depending on whether the victims could recover from the disaster damage with their own funds or could borrow through nongovernment sources.

The maximum loan term limits for those who have outside available loans is three years. For all other borrowers, maximum loan terms are 30 years.

Loan limitations are on secondary homes and luxury items such as boats, planes and recreational vehicles. There also are limitations on loan amounts for landscaping and family swimming pools.

Thom said applying for SBA loans was similar to applying for loans from the bank. The only difference is the SBA expects more information about those requesting loans and might send

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Police, shops brace for holiday crime

By Robert Strader
Staff Writer

Local police and businesses are bracing themselves for an expected increase in shoplifting and thefts during the holiday season.

"There is an increase in larceny from residences and fraternity areas and larceny from vehicles," said Chapel Hill police Chief Ralph Pendergraph.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said many thefts occurred because the homeowners went out of town for the holidays. "But most break-ins are reported when people get back into town after the

holidays," Cousins said.

Pendergraph said the police would handle holiday crime by increasing security patrols in local shopping areas.

"We try to increase our presence in areas where we anticipate potential crimes like University Mall, Glenwood Village (Shopping Center) and Brendle's," Pendergraph said.

"Shoplifting is the responsibility of the individual businesses," he added.

Carrboro police Chief Ben Callahan said, "We will step up the routine (of street patrol) and concentrate more in mall areas."

Callahan suggested ways for out-of-town owners to deter break-ins such as having police or neighbors check their

homes or leaving their lights on. He added that residents could protect their packages from being stolen by storing them in their car's trunk.

Local businesses also are preparing for the possible increase in shoplifting and other holiday crimes.

Ellis Perry, manager of Belk-Leggett at University Mall, said the store would have more employees working at once as a security measure.

"We have employees working based on the traffic flow," he said.

Perry added that large crowds did not make it easier for people to steal. "If someone's going to steal, they'll steal. Crime is no more a problem (in Chapel Hill) than anywhere else."

some of the old houses in town," Peacock said.

Peacock said she was really excited because her house was located where W.C. Coker's garden used to be. Coker was a professor of botany at the University.

Pat Geikler, of 380 Tenney Circle, said the show would help residents get into the spirit of the holiday.

The tour will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for the tour are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.