

Duke gets Durham's OK to transform university's Central Campus. But what's coming?

BY MARY HELEN MOORE
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DURHAM

Duke University got a large chunk of land rezoned this week, paving the way for a big redevelopment of its Central Campus in the coming years, though the university says nothing is planned yet.

The rezoning adds Duke's 155-acre Central Campus to the university's custom zoning district, a widely permissible category created for Duke and N.C. Central universities about two decades ago.

It's called "UC," and allows Duke to build nearly anything that could conceiv-

ably serve a college campus, from dormitories to utilities to hotels to stadiums.

"The primary benefit of the UC is it allows for planning and zoning elements — such as stormwater, parking, sidewalks, tree coverage — to be considered holistically at the campus scale, rather than on each building site," said Adem Gusa, director of planning and design at Duke University.

The vote passed the Durham City Council by 5-2 vote Monday night, with the city's two newest council members, Nate Baker and Chelsea Cook, voting against it.

Baker said specific plans should have come first. "UC is a privilege. It is a

very unique zoning district that allows great latitude to those who own land," Baker said. "I always seek planning before zoning."

It was the second time this year that the City Council heard the case, with leaders hesitant because the university has yet to say what it will do with the property.

But Mayor Pro Tem Mark-Anthony Middleton noted that the Planning Commission supported the rezoning 8-1, despite the lack of specifics.

"The UC designation isn't particularly controversial to me for a university," Middleton said.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO DUKE'S CENTRAL CAMPUS?

Central Campus is the area near Duke University Medical Center that is home to employee parking lots, a handful of buildings and lots of trees.

It spans from the medical center to just past Swift Avenue, and is sandwiched between Erwin Road and Duke Gardens.

Duke's development plan says Central Campus

may include "all uses under the zoning district," but promises not to build structures above 90 feet, or roughly eight stories.

UC zoning allows:

- Dorms and co-living
- Educational and research facilities
- Stadiums and auditoriums
- Hotels
- Hospitals, shelters and care centers
- Parks and museums
- Places of worship
- Utilities
- On this acreage, up to 50,000 square feet of restaurants and shops.
- A golf course, though Duke committed Monday night not to build one here.

Durham resident Mimi Kessler said Duke should build workforce housing on Central Campus.

"That is, the hourly people who work at Duke and in Durham," Kessler said. "Right there on Erwin Road. Employees can walk to the hospital."

The area for decades was home to student apartments, though the university tore them down in 2019.

FROM PAGE 1A COOPER

private sector, nonprofits and volunteers — as "the largest whole-of-community response in North Carolina history."

Cooper said there are fewer than 81,000 power outages remaining, down from hundreds of thousands after the storm passed through. He said 80% of AT&T and Verizon outages have been repaired; and FEMA has approved about 126,000 Individual Assistance applications with more than \$60 million in aid paid.

The state has confirmed 88 storm-related deaths.

Additionally, there are about 2,600 people staying in hotels through FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance program.

"It's clear that we're still at the beginning of this recovery and much more work remains ahead for Western North Carolina to recover stronger than ever, and it will," Cooper said.

FEMA HEAD: NO RESOURCES LEAVING NC

FEMA has more than 900 staff members on the ground in Western North Carolina assisting with the response to Helene.

That staff will stay in North Carolina even after Hurricane Milton makes landfall, Criswell said Wednesday.

"I want to assure the people of North Carolina that while we watch Hurricane Milton approach the coast of Florida, you can be assured that no resources are going to be taken from North Carolina," Criswell said.

While Criswell is headed to Florida to coordinate the Milton response, she vowed she would return to North Carolina and said FEMA's regional administrator would remain in North Carolina.

There are already 1,000 FEMA employees in Florida working on Helene and other disasters, Criswell said, with additional search-and-rescue teams headed south. Some people are leaving the Helene response in Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee to head toward the Milton response, Criswell added.

"We are not moving resources that are actively engaged in the priorities that the governor has set here in North Carolina," Criswell said.

'ONSLAUGHT OF LIES AND MISINFORMATION'

Cooper made a point to call out the rampant rumors about the Helene response that are spreading on social media.

Those rumors have

verified information they have been sent with "respected news sources" or to reach out directly to FEMA or state responders.

STAY OFF WNC ROADS

More than 460 roads have reopened, NC Department of Transportation Secretary Joey Hopkins said Wednesday, but more than 600 remain closed due to storm damage.

"This number's still changing daily as communications improve and we reach more sites," Hopkins said.

There are 5,800 sites

that have sustained damage, Hopkins said, including 500 bridges and 600 culverts. Of those, DOT anticipates that at least 100 bridges will need to be replaced.

DOT's response includes 2,100 employees, 1,700 of them working in Western North Carolina. There are also hundreds of contract employees, N.C. National

Guard and U.S. Army forces helping DOT.

"Non-essential traffic is hindering our efforts to get roads opened back up. Crews are having to stop work to allow traffic to pass through damaged areas. To keep us from getting stuck, cleared and open as fast as possible, we again ask that traffic use alternative routes," Hopkins said.

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Raleigh, North Carolina — Margaret Ann Barefoot Hawley, 68, of Raleigh passed away at home on October 2, 2024.

She was born on February 26, 1956, to William Leonard ("Big") and Christine Barefoot. She graduated from Dunn High School in 1974 and attended Hardin-Burgess Junior College of Business. She married Charles Alenzo Hawley in 1976, to whom she was wed for over 30 years.

Margaret was a Carolina girl through and through. Over the years, she worked in administration at the Harnett County Board of Education, the NC Dept. of Environmental Quality, and Guiding Light Ministries, among others. She sang in several

church choirs and played the piano beautifully.

In recent years, she was diagnosed with COPD and was dependent upon supplemental oxygen; yet she was still known for her generosity of spirit. Neighbors and friends knew her for her kindness, her smile, and her laugh. She led a simple life but shared whatever she could with others. She met people from all walks of life with sympathy, understanding, and grace, and never judged them for whatever circumstances they found themselves in.

She is survived by her daughter, Alicia Hawley Rich, her son-in-law, Eric, and her granddaughter, Evelyn ("Eva"), as well as her sister and brother-in-law, Janice and Sammy King, and her sister, Frances Jackson. She is also survived by five nieces and nephews and their spouses, four great nieces, and one great nephew.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at Skinner & Smith Funeral Home, 905 Erwin Rd., in Dunn, NC. Memorial contributions can be made to SouthLight Healthcare (<https://southlight.org/donate/>).

William Graham Champion Mitchell December 24, 1946 - October 8, 2024

New Bern, North Carolina — William Graham Champion Mitchell, aged 77, of New Bern, NC, passed away on October 8, 2024. Champ Mitchell was born in Wake County, NC, on December 24, 1946 to the late Burley Champion and Dorothy Ford Champion.

Champ received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1969, served on Active Duty as a Naval Surface Warfare Officer, and then returned to law school at Chapel Hill. He received his Juris Doctor in 1975.

During Champ's career as a corporate litigator, he was a Partner at Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice, Winston-Salem; and a Partner at Howard & Simon in Washington, D.C. His corporate career highlights include Senior Vice President for External Affairs R.J. Reynolds Company Nabisco; Executive Vice President R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company; Executive Vice President of Verisign INC; and Chief Executive Officer of Network Solutions Inc.

At the time of his death, Champ Mitchell served on the Board of Directors of Research Triangle Institute International and ARGAN Inc. His service on the University of North Carolina Board of Governors was cut short by his first cancer diagnosis. He is survived by his wife, Etienne "ET" Mitchell; three children, William Graham Mitchell (Havila), Margaret Mitchell Flatley, and Morgan Benjamin Andreia (Jenna); and four grandchildren: Nathan Flatley, Allison Mitchell, Mason Mitchell, and Miles Mitchell; and his brother, the Honorable Burley Bayard Mitchell, Jr. (Lou). ET and Morgan would like to thank New Bern's medical community, particularly Dr. Michael Fugimagari. The outstanding care by numerous doctors and nurses at Carolina East Medical Center and Coastal Carolina Health Center enabled Champ to beat the odds for over ten years. Pruitt Hospice and Ms. Evelyn Saunders' care team eased his last days.

In lieu of flowers, Champ would prefer to be remembered through donations to the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain. A memorial service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in New Bern, at 10:00 am on Friday, October 11, 2024 with a reception following at the Harrison Center. Online condolences to the family may be made at www.cottengeneralfuneralhome.com.

FROM PAGE 1A

I-40

The \$10 million shoring contract has incentives if the contractors — Wright Brothers Construction of Charleston, Tennessee, and Colorado-based GeoStabilization International — can finish the work by Jan. 4.

Engineers are still trying to figure out how to restore the land that once supported the eastbound lanes of I-40. Historic rain from the remnants of Hurricane Helene turned the Pigeon River into a torrent that wore away the earth below the highway. The guardrail and shoulder along the eastbound lanes fell into the river in several places. In some spots, the travel lanes themselves also disappeared.

The westbound lanes remain intact. But in at least one place, all that separates them from the river is the median barrier. Meanwhile, an alternate route, Interstate 26, remains closed after floodwaters knocked down twin spans that carried the highway over the Nolichucky River in Erwin, about 40 miles from the North Carolina line. Nagi says there's no timeline set for rebuilding the bridges and reopening the highway.

For now, NCDOT advises drivers wishing to go west toward Tennessee to take either I-77 north to I-81 near Wytheville, Virginia, toward Knoxville, or take U.S. 74 west toward Chattanooga.

NC Reality Check is a continuing series holding those in power accountable and shining a light on public issues that affect North Carolina. Have a suggestion for a future story? Email realitycheck@newsobserver.com.

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Obituaries

Margaret Barefoot Hawley

February 26, 1956 - October 2, 2024

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Obituaries

OBITUARY INDEX

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Contact our obituary staff at 919-829-4545 or obits@newsobserver.com

NAME	AGE	CITY	DEATH	ARRANGEMENTS
Hawley, Margaret Barefoot	68	Raleigh	Oct 02	Skinner and Smith
Hocutt, Maude	96	Wendell	Oct 07	Strickland Funeral Home & Crematory
Jenkins, Sara Griffin	84	Raleigh	Oct 08	Brown-Wynne, Saint Mary's Bright Funeral Home
Mackie, Jr., George Carlyle	82	Wake Forest	Aug 12	New Bern
Mitchell, William Graham Champion	77	Garnet	Sep 20	Cotton Funeral Home
Willoughby, Matthew	47			Bryan-Lee F H, Garner

Bold Listings indicate expanded obituaries

Wendell, North Carolina — After an emergency surgery, month long hospital stay, and some recovery, Elsie Maude Pope Hocutt, 96, passed away Monday morning, October 7th, at Bellarose Rehab and Skilled Nursing Facility in Garner, NC. She is survived by her son, Johnny Hocutt, his partner, Edith McBurney, Winston Salem, NC, grandchildren, Sarah Hocutt, Washington, DC, Andrew Hocutt, Charleston, SC, nephews, Fred Bradshaw, (wife Peggy), Knightdale, NC, Kenneth Wall, Zebulon, NC, many other wonderful relatives, neighbors and friends. She is preceded in death by; her daughter-in-law, Karen Leah Prater Hocutt, parents, Julian and Goldie Pope, sisters & brothers, Alice, Ila Mae, William "Buck", (all their spouses), and Buster, all, of Johnston County, NC, and beloved nieces, Linda Bradshaw Strickland Parrish, Shirl Bradshaw Strickland Lee, of

ethic and was a good provider for her family. Maude and her mother helped those in need, giving money, buying groceries, providing temporary shelter, etc. She was a dedicated mother and grandmother. She was a long-time member of Wendell Baptist Church. She especially enjoyed