

March 18, 2011

Town of Chapel Hill and Orange Water and Sewer Authority

NEWS RELEASE

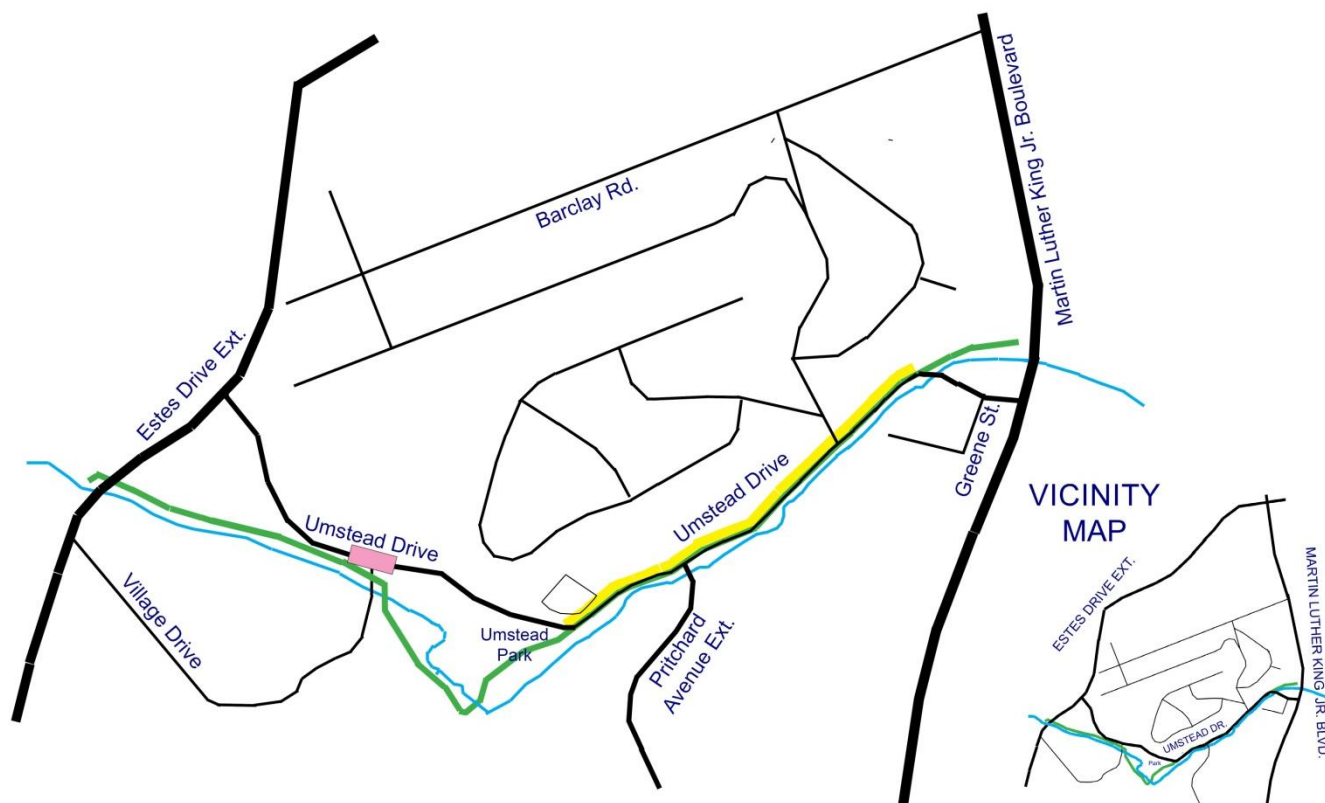
Sewer replacement will affect Umstead Drive starting in May, help prevent future wastewater overflows

Umstead Drive between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Umstead Park will be closed to through traffic for about seven months beginning in early May during a sewer replacement project.

The Town of Chapel Hill and Orange Water and Sewer Authority encourage drivers, cyclists and others to use alternate routes around the sewer project. However, OWASA's contractor will maintain access to the closed area for residents who live there and for emergency vehicles as discussed below.

OWASA Sewer Replacement Project

-  New sewer (approximate location)
-  Bolin Creek (approximate location)
-  Umstead Drive area where sewer will be installed; no through traffic starting in May, 2011 for about 7 months
-  Intersection of Umstead Drive and Village Drive; will be closed in November (estimate) for at least a month



The project is needed because wastewater flow in the existing sewer is approaching the pipe's capacity, a threat to the riparian ecology of Bolin Creek, parkland and greenway

trails. If wastewater flow exceeds a pipe's capacity or is blocked, wastewater would overflow from a manhole. The existing sewer is also deteriorating as it ages.

"Preventing wastewater overflows is one of our highest priorities," said Stuart Carson, Engineering Manager for OWASA's capital improvement program.

Closing Umstead Drive to through traffic in early May from the bridge over Bolin Creek near Greene Street to Umstead Park will affect access to Bradley Road, Pritchard Avenue Extension, etc. The driveway to Umstead Park will be accessible from Estes Drive Extension and the western part of Umstead Drive.

OWASA's contractor also estimates that in November 2011, the intersection of Village Drive and Umstead Drive will be closed for at least one month.

The project will require closing Umstead Park and its adjacent Tanyard Branch greenway trail. The Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department will inform the community at the earliest possible date that closure information becomes available.

Chapel Hill Transit routes A, N, JN (Saturday) and T (Saturday) will be detoured during the closure. Bus stops along Umstead Drive, Pritchard Avenue Extension, Longview Street and Bradley Road will be closed. Additional detours and stop closings are expected as the project progresses. New schedules will be posted for the affected routes. EZ Rider service will not be affected by the project. View Chapel Hill Transit map: <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=212621292032157041241.00049e8875261644b52e5&ll=35.924506,-79.060535&spn=0.02252,0.038409&z=15>

The sewer work will include digging a trench for the new sewer; fracturing and removing rock where necessary; installing new sewer pipes in the trench; refilling the trench; and restoring the work area including pavement where the trench was dug, sidewalk, soil/grass, etc. affected by the sewer installation.

The \$4.85 million project will include 6,100 feet of new sewers along Umstead Drive and Bolin Creek and 2,500 feet of new water pipe in Umstead Drive. The work will:

- Involve blasting to remove underground rock.
- Involve noise, dust and mud.
- Affect traffic and transit as indicated above.
- Normally enable access to individual residences for emergency service vehicles and residents in the project area. (Access to a driveway will be limited during installation of pipes in front of the driveway.)
- Include arrangements by the contractor so that sanitation, recycling, postal deliveries, etc. will be accommodated in the project area.
- Include temporary planned and unplanned interruptions of utility services such as water and sewer. The contractor will inform residents in advance of planned service interruptions.

The contractor plans to work eight hours a day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays.

The project may be complete by late January, 2012, but weather and other conditions, such as the amount of underground rock in the path of the new sewer, may affect the contractor's progress and the duration of the project.

The Town and OWASA will work together to send e-mail updates to interested citizens who sign up at www.townofchapelhill.org/signup and select "Chapel Hill eNews." (OWASA will also continue to send updates to citizens on OWASA's distribution list.)

For more information:

OWASA (questions about the project purposes, location, contractor's activities and schedule, detour signs and related matters)

- Stuart Carson, P.E., Engineering Manager, 919-537-4247 or scarson@owasa.org
- Greg Feller, Public Affairs, 919-537-4267 or gfeller@owasa.org

Town of Chapel Hill (questions about the impact of the project on Town services and facilities such as Chapel Hill Transit, Umstead Park, greenways, etc.)

- Catherine Lazorko, Public Information Officer, 919-969-5055, or info@townofchapelhill.org
- Brian Litchfield, Chapel Hill Transit, 919-969-4908 or chtransit@townofchapelhill.org
- Bill Webster, Parks and Recreation, 919-968-2819, or bwebster@townofchapelhill.org



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

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ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

*A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services
to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.*

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