

## TRIANGLE POLITICS

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# Let good times roll at home

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER, TOBY COLEMAN, JOSH SHAFFER AND SARAH LINDENFELD HALL, Staff Writers**

Mayor Charles Meeker might be more accustomed to selling Raleigh to outsiders -- hoping to lure a big-time headquarters or tourist dollars. But this week he was selling the city to city residents, calling on them to stay in town this Labor Day weekend instead of traveling.

A city news conference highlighted festivities for this weekend's Aggie-Eagle Classic football game, events at state museums, concerts, a barbecue festival, the greenways and amenities at city parks.

"For those of us who don't have firm Labor Day plans, this is a great time to stay here in the city," the mayor said.

Meeker also urged residents to take other steps to cut gas use. Damage by Hurricane Katrina has shut down oil refineries in the Gulf Coast.

"Let me call on all the citizens of Raleigh and the Triangle to take reasonable steps to conserve fuel," Meeker said. "... This is a chance for all of us to help in this situation. If we all work together we really can make a big difference here."

**FULL DISCLOSURE:** Meeker had to make an unusual disclosure at a City Council committee meeting Tuesday.

Before a discussion of the Martin-Haywood redevelopment in Southeast Raleigh, Meeker told the audience that his son David worked as an intern for Empire Properties, the group with one plan for redevelopment, and may take a full-time job there.

The mayor said his son also has a contract to buy a house in the area on East Hargett Street, adding that the house needs about \$100,000 worth of work.

Meeker said that he was not required to disclose the information, but thought it best to make it public considering he would, as a father to a recent college graduate, naturally be chipping in.

"He has no income," the mayor joked.

**FROM APEX TO WASHINGTON:** When the Apex Board of Commissioners meets Tuesday, there will be an empty chair.

Doug Meckes, a town commissioner since 1995, resigned last month so he could take a



Meeker calls on Raleigh residents to enjoy city, save gas.

Congressional Science Fellowship in Washington.

Meckes, a veterinarian by trade, said he could not pass up an opportunity to work in Congress.

He added, though, that his heart will remain in Apex.

"I'll always be a commissioner," he said.

**PROTEST PLANNED: The unhappiness in New Hill is not just splashing onto Cary's leaders.**

**Apex commissioners are slated to get an earful from the unincorporated Wake County community Tuesday night.**

**New Hill residents say they will picket the commissioners' meeting to protest plans to build a sewage treatment plant for Apex, Cary and Morrisville in the heart of their community.**

**Last month, New Hill residents picketed both of the Cary Town Council's meetings.**

### **Political Trail**

\* Durham City Council candidate Mike Woodard, who is running in Ward 3, will attend a "Meet the Candidate" reception Thursday. The public is welcome to attend from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 403 East Main St., Durham.

**Triangle Politics is a weekly look at the local political scene. Got a tip, item or forthcoming event? Fax Triangle Politics at 829-4529 or send e-mail to [hstepp@newsobserver.com](mailto:hstepp@newsobserver.com).**

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