



## PUBLIC FORUM

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A pole without a flag puzzles reader, especially on Veterans Day. **PAGE 2N**

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THE NEWS-OBSERVER

# North Raleigh News

SCHOOL DAYS



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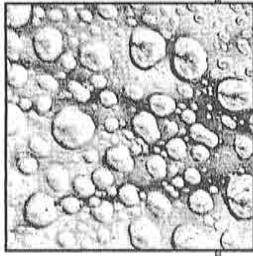
**Statewide award:** Dee Bostick, Wake's best school counselor, is also best in the state. **PAGE 7N**

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# North Hills makeover? spreading?

**Builder pays top dollar for small homes located near proposed North Hills East.**

By JAVIER SERNA  
STAFF WRITER

**RALEIGH** - Even with uncertainty over the proposed 45-acre North Hills East project, demand for land is spilling over into the neighborhood. Since July, Marlowe Builders Inc. has purchased four properties where modest homes stand on Camelot Drive.

The most recent acquisition came on Oct. 30, when Marlowe Builders paid \$450,000 for a 1,587-square-foot home, according to Wake County records.

That property, on less than a half acre, was assessed at \$134,138, according to county records.

The other three properties, similar in size and value, all were sold by individuals for \$450,000, except for one lot that went for \$400,000.

"You can see what's happening over there," said Anderson

## SPECULATOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1N

would be paid back over time through self-financing bonds. In September, the City Council approved the rezoning case and master plans for the project after more than a year going through City Hall.

"I'm keeping a close eye on that," said Marlowe. The City Council is still mulling over guidelines for using such self-financing bonds, also known as tax-increment financing.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, consultants recommended that the city use \$30 million in self-financing bonds to purchase the Dorothea Dix property owned by the state south of downtown.

Marlowe Builders has a reputation for buying up consecutive residential lots in neighborhoods north on Six Forks, and in other parts of the city, and subdividing the properties and building smaller, but higher-end properties.

But Marlowe said there are no immediate plans for the property. Redevelopment, he said,

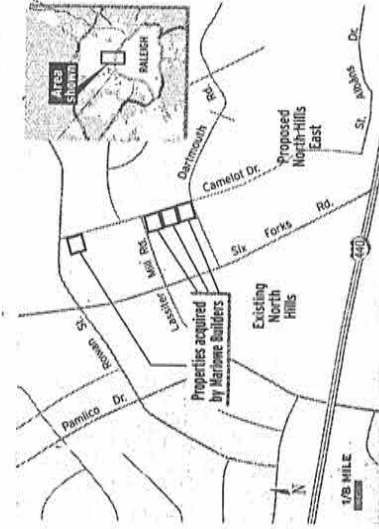
could go the way of residential or commercial.

The location of the properties, which back up to commercial properties, made them attractive, Marlowe said.

But commercial redevelopment will require rezoning because the land is zoned for residential use.

"I feel like somewhere down the road, there will be an opportunity for redevelopment," said Marlowe.

Staff writer Javier Serna can be reached at 836-4953 or jserna@newsobserver.com.



# CELE-BIQUITY

With the purchase of a posh home last month by Hurricanes star Eric Staal, North Raleigh's celebrity head count is rising. Here are some notable locals:



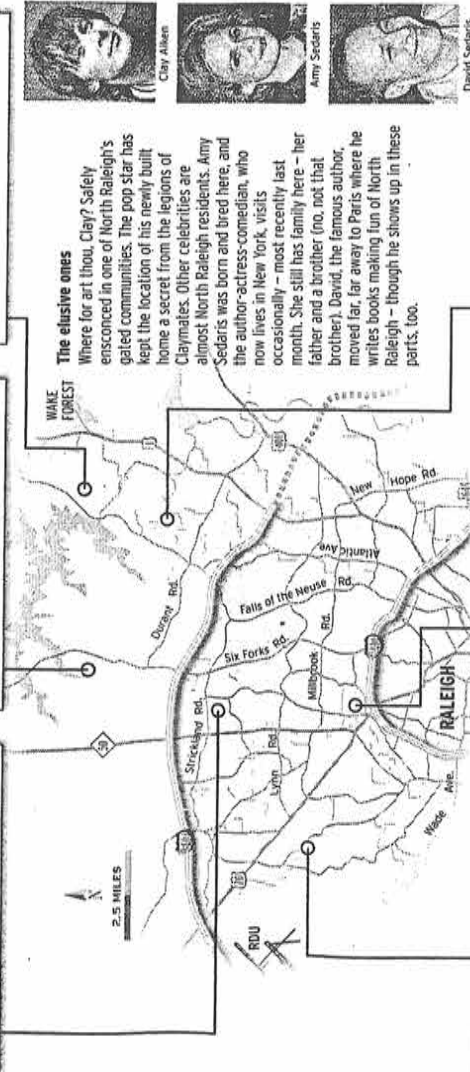

**Bret Hedican**  
Hurricanes defenseman  
**Kristi Yamaguchi**  
Olympic gold medalist in figure skating  
\$610,000  
3,658 square feet




**Bill Cowher**  
Pittsburgh Steelers head coach  
\$2,525,000  
7,520 square feet






**Greg Raymer**  
2004 World Series of Poker champion, a.k.a. "the Fossilman"  
\$1,539,000  
6,521 square feet



**The elusive ones**  
Where for art thou, Clay? Safety ensconced in one of North Raleigh's gated communities. The pop star has kept the location of his newly built home a secret from the regions of Claymates. Other celebrities are almost North Raleigh residents. Amy Sedaris was born and bred here, and the author-actress-comedian, who now lives in New York, visits occasionally - most recently last month. She still has family here - her father and a brother (no, not that brother). David, the famous author, moved far, far away to Paris where he writes books making fun of North Raleigh - though he shows up in these parts, too.

**Clay Allen**  
**Amy Sedaris**  
**David Sedaris**

**Chuck Amato**  
Woolpack football head coach  
\$1,213,746\*  
7,275 square feet  
\* Assessed value




**Eric Staal**  
Hurricanes center  
\$723,500  
4,070 square feet




**Trevor Graham**  
Former Olympic track and field coach  
\$351,000  
3,684 square feet