

The Progress

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Merchants skeptical of key box

By Ron Page

An ordinance requiring Morrisville business owners to mount lock boxes on their buildings drew a strong protest at Monday night's meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

"It's like Big Brother," said Scott Beerman, owner of The Delt Box and chairman of the town's Planning and Zoning Board.

The Board of Commissioners enacted an ordinance in September 1994 requiring businesses to place building keys inside a lock box to provide access to the building in case of fire. The businesses have until September of 1996 to comply.

The lock boxes, called "knox box" key entry systems after the name of the manufacturer, are made of reinforced steel and are about four inches square. They can be opened by fire officials with a master key that can't be duplicated.

"I know the intent is safety, but I just don't feel right giving keys to outsiders," Beerman said. The matter was not on the agenda and Beerman's comments came during the period allotted to the public.

Commissioner C.T. Moore said the public safety committee is aware of concern on the part of some small business owners and would review the ordinance. Moore serves on the committee with Commissioner Leavy Barbee, who is the chairman.

Beerman told the board he feels the ordinance violates rights of privacy. "The saying is that a man's home is his castle, and so should a small business be considered a castle," Beerman said.

Beerman indicated that other business owners are opposed to lock boxes. "The ones who have called me said they are not going to do it," he told the board.

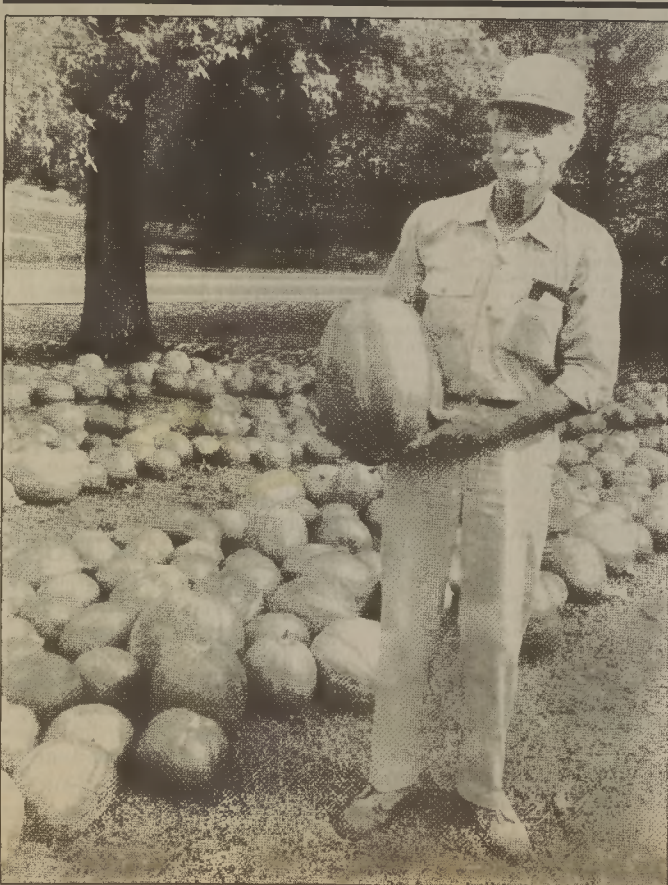
The same rapid-entry system is used in other North Carolina communities, including Raleigh, Cary, Greensboro and Charlotte. The ordinance adopted by the Morrisville commissioners is similar to the Wake County ordinance.

In addition to "knox boxes," Morrisville businesses storing hazardous materials also must have an outside data storage box containing information on the type and location of hazardous materials.

In other business, the board approved an ordinance cutting the speed limit on Morrisville Parkway at the Morrisville Elementary School from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour from 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after school time.

Veterans Day falls on Saturday, Nov. 11, this year, and town employees will get the Friday before off as holiday time rather than the conventional Monday after. The

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THE COLORS OF FALL—An eye-catching display of pumpkins at Paul and Wilma Phillips' house on N.C. 55 in Carpenter is pretty enough

to illustrate an October calendar. The couple also sell Indian corn, gourds and straw for autumn decorating.

Roadside farmer doing his part to promote pumpkins, sweet tater pie

By Ron Page

You can't miss the Phillips' place on N.C. 55 in the Carpenter Community. It's the house with the orange front lawn.

The orange comes from the pumpkins Paul and Wilma Phillips have lined in rows out front of the L-shaped ranch they have called home since 1951.

Can you imagine Halloween without a jack-o'-lantern? Not to worry. There are plenty of pumpkins this year, especially at this trim homestead where several thousand have been harvested from 10 of the 35 acres the couple planted this year.

"We got a late start because of all the spring and early summer rain," says Phillips, who is a retired airlines employee. "The fields were soaked and we couldn't even walk on them in June. It was about the second week in July when planting took place."

Phillips has been selling his pumpkins and Halloween items such as Indian corn, gourds, straw, corn stalks and colorful mums for the past 20 years. Each year the front lawn turns orange as the fall season gets under way. People in the area refer to his place as "The Pumpkin House."

The pumpkins include varieties

such as Big Max, Jack-o'-Lanterns, Carolina Gold and Mammoth Gold. One of the more popular varieties is the Pumpkin Pie, which is only slightly larger than a softball.

Phillips says the pulp is ideal for pie filling since it is thicker and meatier than other styles.

"But I don't care for pumpkin pie," he adds. "Don't like things too spicy. My favorite is sweet potato pie with vanilla seasoning." Does his wife make pies from what they grow? "She's an excellent baker," Phillips smiles.

The look turns to a frown, though, when he talks about a com-

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Candidates share views on issues

Veterans vie for mayor's post; newcomers eye District 3 seat

By Ron Page

Acting Mayor Billy Sauls and Margaret E. Broadwell want to be mayor of Morrisville. Observers agree that both know the problems the town faces, and each has a view on how to approach them.

Those same observers also agree that when all ballots were counted after the Nov. 7 election, whoever wins will bring experience to the office.

Says Sauls: "Growth is going to happen. That's a forgone conclusion. I'm for growth...but in an orderly fashion."

Counters Ms. Broadwell: "Physical change is inevitable for a town like Morrisville. But this town has allowed developers to dictate policy."

So the stage is set for the confrontation brought about by the resignation in May of Mayor Ernest Lumley when he announced plans to move to Nash County after 13 years in office.

For the 53-year-old Sauls, owner and operator of the Billy Sauls Exxon station, it means either becoming the new mayor or continuing his present position as a member of the Board of Commissioners.

An at-large commissioner in the middle of his second four-year term, Sauls became acting mayor in May when Lumley resigned. Sauls would resign as commissioner if he wins the mayoral race.

His only opponent to fill the remaining two years of Lumley's unexpired four-year term is Mrs. Broadwell, herself a former Morrisville commissioner.

Beginning in 1985, Mrs. Broadwell, 46, served two consecutive terms as commissioner, but chose not to seek re-election in 1993. Instead, she ran unsuccessfully as mayor, losing to Lumley by a narrow margin. It was her first attempt to gain that office. A former real

estate agent, she is a substitute teacher in the Wake County public school system.

As for the rest of the field, incumbents Leavy Barbee, 67, and C.T. Moore Sr., 58, are running unopposed, Barbee as commissioner for District 1, and Moore as commissioner at large.

What was to have been a three-way contest in District 3, however, is now down to two candidates, Rosemary Johnson and Mark Silver-Smith. Ruth C. Grimsley withdrew as a candidate earlier this month to devote more time to her church.

Sauls feels the election provides the opportunity for "laying the groundwork for a wonderful small town." He says the key is how you plan for it. "We must plan now for what's ahead and have the vision that things are going to happen whether you want them to or not."

The groundwork was started, he feels, with the 20-year sewer and water agreement made in September with the town of Cary to supply those services. He feels the pact is a good one and more cost efficient than building a \$12.5 million connection system to get the services from the city of Raleigh.

"Why spend the money when we don't need to spend it?" he says. "It would have been millions more," adding it would also have been financially impossible for Morrisville to supply its own utilities.

This is one of the financial decisions Mrs. Broadwell questions. She would have preferred the town contracting with Raleigh instead of Cary. She says it appears poor financial planning eliminated the possibility of building the connecting system with Raleigh.

"I believe the contract helps Cary as much as it helps Morrisville," she says. "My concern is that Cary

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NO STOPPING THEM NOW—The sign at the railroad crossing says "Stop," but Billy Sauls and Margaret E. Broadwell, the candidates for mayor of Morrisville, plan to keep running until the polls close on Nov. 7. Both Sauls and Broadwell have experience both in office and on the campaign trail.



A PRIVATE LESSON—Coach Larry Jackson of Preston Highlands offers some pre-game advice Saturday to two of the players on his 14 and under soccer team. The girls are, at right, his daughter, Meri, and her friend, Lindsey Klein of Morrisville.

Prestonwood fields abuzz with latest craze—soccer

By Ron Page

It is midweek, and the teams made up of 7 and 8-year-old boys and girls run to their places across the field in Preston for an afternoon practice. The whistle sounds, and a young blond boy approaches the ball to kick off.

"Time! Time!" shouts the coach. "Jimmy, how many times do you have to be told to stay behind the kicker? And Jennifer, keep those hands down."

Now it is Saturday, same time, same place. Tots not bigger than a yardstick, some as young as 4, others 5 and 6, scamper about in colorful team shirts. The size of the fields are almost as short as they are.

"Yuk," a 5-year-old boy says after slipping in a muddy area. It had been raining Thursday and Friday. "That's O.K., Kyle. Here, let me help you clean those hands," says the coach. "White kicked the ball out. Red throws it in. Go ahead, Jamie."

Welcome to recreational league soccer—the fastest growing participation sport in the nation. In communities across the country, youngsters like those in Preston trot about in shorts and shin protectors, imitating their favorite pro, college, or high school soccer player.

Five days a week, from about 5 p.m. to dark, the two fields off High House Road across from Prestonwood Country Club buzz with youngsters. Boys and girls up to 16 years old practice the fundamentals—drizzling, passing, moving the ball from one foot to the other as their coaches encourage their efforts.

Games take place on Saturdays and Sundays, with the younger children playing under close supervision. Every hour and a half a new batch of youngsters takes the field.

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