

CITY

Participants place in Special Olympics

By ADELE MYERS
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill participants in the Special Olympics' Summer Games brought home two firsts, one second and two third places after competing last weekend at the N.C. State University, said Chapel Hill Director Wendy Trueblood.

Justin Allison, Franco Brovin, Michael Brown, Rebie Jones, Kimly Parker, Giuseppe Polcaro, Anthony Stevenson and Monica Walker brought home several awards including first place in softball throw and running long jump, second place in the team relay, and third place in the 200 meter dash and 400 meter run.

Robert Samblin, 1990 Volunteer Games Director, said more than 3,000 people participated in the games, a new record for the Special Olympics program. Events included swimming, gymnastics, roller-skating, softball, tennis, volleyball, track and field, and powerlifting.

"We were kind of scared going into it because the games were the largest ever held, but all of the events ran very well. The volunteers are really the key to making it work," said David Lenox, Executive Director of the Summer Games. About 1,800 athletes, 750 coaches and 2300 volunteers were present.

Trueblood said that the event was a success. "I think it gave everyone involved the chance to move onto a higher level of competition, to be in a different atmosphere and meet and interact with new people in a social situation," she said.

"The athletes who get to compete

in Summer Games have put a tremendous amount of time and energy in their sports," Samblin said. "One of our jobs as volunteers in Special Olympics is to provide top quality tournaments for the athletes to demonstrate their athletic skills."

At the conclusion of the Summer Games, Hardees presented a check for \$63,000 and Eckerd Drugs and Proctor & Gamble donated \$18,000 to fund the volunteer organization.

Special Olympics is a year-round program of training and competition that encourages the physical, social and psychological development of mentally retarded athletes. It is run by a 20-member, all-volunteer board of directors.

Other Special Olympics programs include annual Fall and Winter Games and International Games once every four years for both summer and winter events. There are Special Olympics programs in more than 70 nations on six continents.

Lenox said he hoped to see more spectators attend Special Olympics in the future.

"I think the most important thing that happens with the games is that they prove to the general public what mentally retarded people can do," he said. "The general public is amazed to see good competition. There is no pity in our games."

As the number of athletes involved in Special Olympics increases, so does the need for volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering, call the state office at 1-800-843-6276 or contact Wendy Trueblood in Chapel Hill at 919-968-2819.

Tax increase reduced, expenses cut

By DEVON HYDE
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted to raise taxes as part of its \$31 million budget Monday night, although the increase was less than the amount originally recommended by interim town manager Sonna Loewenthal.

The council voted 6-3 to reduce the tax from the proposed 5 cents to 4.125 cents per \$100 valuation. To compensate for the difference in rates, council members decided to raise downtown parking and bus fees, to eliminate a proposed maintenance position from the budget and to reduce funding for two town expenditures.

"We are saving this year (by reducing taxes), but we're taking chances

(with the future)," said Mayor Jonathan Howes.

Julie M. Andresen, the Rev. Roosevelt Wilkerson Jr. and Joyce Brown, who all expressed concern about raising taxes, voted against the budget.

The downtown parking rates increase will push fees from 35 cents to 45 cents per half hour, while bus fares will go from 50 to 60 cents per ride. The parking-rate increase is expected to raise \$42,000 for the town's transportation fund, Loewenthal said.

Council member Julie Andresen objected to increased parking rates. "Some people like to drive downtown," she said, "but 45 cents is a lot to pay for a half hour."

The plan to allocate \$18,000 to create a parking lot maintenance position,

which had been suggested by interim town manager Sonna Loewenthal as a way to appease downtown businesses who have complained about litter.

However, the council decided to keep a traffic engineer position in the budget. The engineer will design and implement a \$1.2 million system to coordinate and computerize traffic lights, which is being funded by the state Department of Transportation.

The council also decided to cut \$11,400 from the travel allocation for the mayor and town council and eliminated the \$5,000 set aside to fund hanging flower baskets on Franklin Street.

The council discussed several ways to reduce personnel expenses, which

make up more than 60 percent of the general-fund budget, but could not agree on any cuts. Council members considered establishing a hiring freeze or reducing a proposed 7.5 percent pay increase for all employees, but neither matter was approved.

Councilman Wilkerson spoke in favor of the proposal to raise employee salaries. "A large number of individuals in town do not get cost of living or merit increases each year," he said.

The council also debated cutting small items such as magazine subscriptions and refreshments for town functions during the three-hour meeting. However, Mayor Howes called these suggestions attempts at "micromanagement".

IFC Shelter to reopen for guests this week

By KARA JOYCE
Staff Writer

Nine month renovations to the InterFaith Council (IFC) Community Shelter are nearly complete, and all shelter guests should be moved in this week, according to IFC Community Services Director Chris Moran.

The shelter, located on the corner of West Rosemary and Columbia streets, will comfortably accommodate up to 30 men and 20 women not including the volunteers, according to Richard Harrill, a member of the IFC policy and management board. Harrill said that figure could easily be inflated by putting additional guests on the floor.

"We feel very confident that we finally have an adequate and complete structure," Harrill said.

The IFC has been waiting to obtain occupancy status from the building in-

spector, Harrill said. Moran said the main delay was getting the elevator inspected. State law requires the building to have an operational elevator, and Moran said the elevator must tie in with the fire alarm system.

The renovated shelter will have several features absent from the old building. Harrill said the greatest improvement is the integration of the soup kitchen into the complex. The new dining room will accommodate 68 people at each sitting, and there is now a display area that will keep food warm, he said.

The integration of the soup kitchen and the shelter will also mean guests will not have to walk across town after dinner to get to the shelter as was necessary when the kitchen was located on Merritt Mill Road.

The shelter also gained a large walk-

in freezer that permits long-term food storage, Harrill said. The freezer will allow the kitchen to accept large donations from restaurants that previously could not take because the food would spoil, he said.

The third major improvement is the addition of a new medical examining room that will be staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses on Thursday nights.

Shelter guests were moved out of the building last September and have been staying at temporary locations since then. The men have been staying on the second floor of the Merritt Mill Road soup kitchen. The women were staying at the United University Methodist Church and then at Granville Towers before they moved into the shelter June 5.

According to Moran, the shelter is serving more people. He said approxi-

mately 30,000 meals were served in 1988 and around 37,000 meals were served in 1989.

Both Harrill and Moran said the homeless problem is in large part due to the lack of affordable housing in the Chapel Hill area.

The low unemployment rates in the area attract people, but they cannot afford to live here, Harrill said. Moran added that the cost of living is 28 percent higher in Chapel Hill than in the rest of the state.

The homeless have a hard time getting jobs, Harrill said. "When you are on the street, it is hard to get a job. Even if you can find a job, you have to save several month's wages to have enough money to make a deposit on an apartment or house and get your power turned on. The start-up costs are enormous ... it is a vicious cycle."

Local radio, record stores cautious about 2 Live Crew

From Associated Press reports

While free speech advocates and law enforcement agencies continue their battle over 2 Live Crew's music, radio stations across North Carolina are divided with record stores over whether to play it or return it.

The racy rap album isn't on most

record store shelves and has been removed from playlists. But the recent decision in Florida that the music is legally obscene has apparently heightened the group's popularity.

"It has renewed interest," said Judy McDonough, assistant manager of the Record Exchange in Greensboro.

"We're currently out of stock. People want to hear it now."

The Record Exchange, Spins in Greensboro and Marty's Record Shop in High Point are among the few stores that still sell 2 Live Crew records. Three other chains, including Record Bar, have pulled the band's recordings off the shelves.

"The people we buy from simply stopped carrying it," said Jeff Stabnau, manager of a School Kids Records and Tapes store in the Triad. "Given the current attitude, we're just adopting a wait-and-see attitude."

Local retailers say they aren't afraid of getting in trouble for selling the band's records, although a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., man was arrested Friday after selling a 2 Live Crew album to an undercover officer.

Two members of the group, Luther Campbell and Chris Wongwon, also were arrested after a Sunday concert. Some Charlotte-area stations said they had dropped the album from their playlists because it was musically stale or offensive to their audiences.

"I'm sure it would appeal to some of our audience, but we just have to be careful about records we select," said

Michael Saunders, program director for WPEG-FM, which caters to a predominantly black audience. "We're a family-oriented station."

WCKZ-FM program director Mark Shands said he thinks the rap band is being singled out partly because its members are black.

"I think a portion of it is racially motivated," Shands said. "The comedian Andrew Dice Clay has a new album that is filled with the same, sexually explicit language. But you don't see anybody arresting him."

In the Triad area of Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem, several radio stations say the fact that 2 Live Crew isn't on their playlist has nothing to do with it being censored.

Meanwhile, legal experts say North Carolina's obscenity law is broad enough to warrant arrests in the Tar Heel state.

North Carolina's Obscene Literature and Exhibitions statute makes it a felony punishable by three years in prison for a person to intentionally disseminate obscenity, which is described as material of a sexually explicit nature having no social or redeeming value.

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