

Speed limit reduced on International

Acting mayor Billy Sauls believes speed limits are inconsistent in the Town of Morrisville.

"We have some 20, some 25, and some 30 or 35," he told the Board of Commissioners at a September meeting. "There doesn't seem to be any consistency to it."

Sauls made his point on a proposal to reduce the speed limit on International Drive from 35 to 25.

"Right now we have a speed limit of 35 on town streets unless otherwise posted," he told the commissioners. "If we keep going the way we're going, we're not going to have any 35 mile-per-hour speed limits."

Commissioner Phyllis Newnam said Morrisville's situation regarding speed limits isn't unusual. "Other towns are the same way," she told Sauls.

"Show me any street in town that's safer to drive on than International Drive," Sauls challenged the commissioners.

"Most of the other streets don't have the trucks International has," responded Newnam.

"Those trucks are really tearing up the streets," said Commissioner Leavy Barbee. "We ought to set the speed limit at 25 and enforce it to the fullest."

Commissioners Bill Ufferman

Town Crier

and C.T. Moore sided with Newnam and Barbee. Sauls' attempt to keep the International Drive speed limit at 35 failed by a 4-1 margin.

What's the population of Morrisville?

Town Manager Bill Cobey says the figure is probably more than 2,000 now, but the official figure is 1,919 based on an estimate by the Office of State Planning.

State demographer Bill Tillman notified Cobey of the number, which is based on the estimated permanent resident population as of July 1, 1994, plus any residents in areas annexed between that time and July 1, 1995. In Morrisville's case, the population was boosted by only six people as a result of annexation.

The estimate is significant to Morrisville and other municipalities since it's used for determining the amount of state-distributed revenues.

Acting Mayor Billy Sauls agreed with Cobey that the population would be more than 2,000 if official 1995 estimates were available. "We certainly have a lot more than

300," Sauls said in reference to Morrisville's earlier days. "It's coming on; it's coming on."

Cobey expects the population to double in the next few years because of expanded water and sewer capabilities.

Airport Boulevard from Interstate 40 to N.C. 54 is a strange mix. It's a 1.7-mile stretch that starts with motels and a shopping center bordering the interstate.

From that point to N.C. 54, it's bordered by aging houses and mobile homes, modern office buildings, undeveloped land with "For Sale" signs and even a community cemetery.

But as the Town of Morrisville grows, it will be the office buildings that dominate the landscape, according to a revised land use plan which cleared a public hearing at a September meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Although land use plans are designed to forecast the future, that wasn't the case when town planners visualized industrial development along Airport Boulevard. Instead, emphasis has been on office and commercial development, and that's what the new plan reflects.

So as the Airport Boulevard of the future unfolds, the mix won't be much of a mix at all, but rather a series of office buildings similar to those in the Enterprise Center, Perimeter Park and Perimeter Park

West, all developed by Lichten Properties.

Town planner Leisa Powell sees it as an impressive entryway to the Town of Morrisville. "We want to freshen up the front door," she says. "First impressions are lasting."

The town has taken some of the teeth out of its hold-up and burglar alarm law.

Designed to crack down on businesses with electronic alarms that were set off by faulty equipment or human error, the law in its original form turned out to be so restrictive that it annoyed some of the local business operators who were slapped with fines.

Police Chief Bruce Newnam said the revised law should improve relations with businesses. He also expects increases in alarms to be minimal.

Previously, business owners or operators were placed under a four-month probationary period if their alarm system generated two false alarms in any 30-day period. Now they're allowed three false alarms before being placed under a three-month probationary period.

During the previous probationary period, business owners and operators received fines of \$25 for the first false alarm, \$50 for the second false alarm, \$75 for the third false alarm and \$100 for the fourth and subsequent alarms.

Now there's no fine for the first false alarm, and the remaining fines have been reduced by \$25 each.

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Dillard Paper executive chamber chairman

Hearon Dickson has been elected to serve a second one-year term as chairman of the board of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce.

The Dillard Paper Co. executive was named to the post at the September meeting of the chamber's board of directors.

Also taking office Oct. 1 will be Ann Morgan, Budgetel Inn, chairman-elect; Robert DiDomenico Jr., Transition Dynamics, Inc., vice president of business and economic development; Scott Beerman, The Deli Box, vice chairman of community development; Paul Bunch, Carolina Power & Light Co., vice chairman of legislative and public affairs; and Roy Mashburn, Vanguard-Oncor International, vice chairman of organization development and special projects.

Jim Gallup of Tarheel Wood Treating is past chairman of the chamber.

Look for plenty of "Cecil and Leonard" stories at the chamber's annual banquet, scheduled for Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Prestonwood Country Club.

The speaker will be Ray Wilkinson, who for 30 years both informed and entertained viewers of WRAL-TV newscasts.

Attention, barbecue lovers.

There'll be plenty of pork at the chamber's fund-raising barbecue this Friday, Sept. 29. It's set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the chamber office at 222 Church St.

Chamber Briefs

Takeout orders may be placed by calling 380-9026. Parking will be available both at the chamber and at First Baptist Church across the street.

Other than barbecue, cole slaw, potato salad and hush puppies, the big attraction will be race driver Derrick Gilchrist, who will be signing autographs. Gilchrist's car is sponsored by Tarheel Wood Treating Co.

Tickets for the barbecue are \$5.

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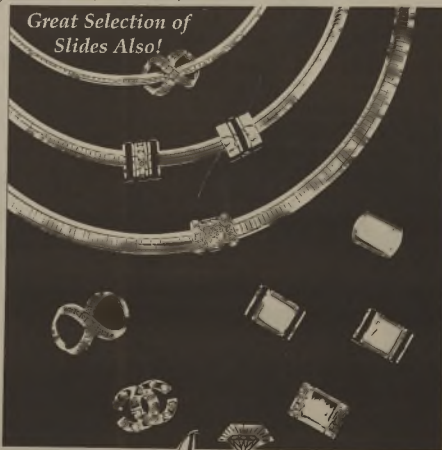
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