10 - The Morrisville and Preston Progress, Wednesday, February 28, 1996

## Start date on Morrisville-Carpenter realignment delayed

Reatignment of Morrisville-Carpenter Road and construction of its proposed new intersection with N.C. 54 may not be realized until the end of the year. Town Manager Bill Cobey told the Morrisville Board of Com-missioners Feb. 12 that the North Carolina Department of Trans-portation has given a new schedule to the work, estimating a comple-tion date by Nov. 15 instead of

Sometime in mid-July. Cobey had originally reported that the state planned to begin work on the road alignment sometime this month. 'As is the case, so many 'changes in such matters,' he said, ''changes in time occur and now construction is expected to begin June 1.'' Cobey said the new route will be constructed in front of fire headquarters to connect with Avia-tion Parkway.

"I'll feel fortunate if it is com-pleted by the end of the year," Cobey added. The area where Morrisville-Carpenter Road meets N.C. 54 in a deep slope between the highway and the railroad tracks has been a speter convers for both the state and the railroad tracks has been a safety concern for both the state and town. The project includes de-velopment of a major intersection with traffic signals and left-hand turning lanes. N.C. 54 will also be

raised about three feet as it reaches the intersection to eliminate the present slope from the level of Morrisville-Carpenter to N.C. 54.

That has brought concern to Dot and Billy K. Hartness, who have lived in a large colonial home on N.C. 54 since 1978. The house sits close to the southeast corner where Aviation Parkway meets N.C. 54.

quite close to the new intersection and when N.C. 54 is raised, he's concerned someone will "mn off the road and end up on our front porch." He said he would like a guard rail installed. "I spoke to Leonard Scarborough from the state and he supersided a petition by state and he suggested a petition by you (the commissioners) to the State DOT requesting a guard rail would be appropriate," Hartness Mayor Margaret Broadwell lold him the realignment came about as a safety issue rather than traffic flow and that as such it would seem appropriate. The matter was left to the commissioners for study. Cost of the realignment and new intersection is estimated at \$1 mil-tion, with \$165,000 coming from the Town of Morrisville and the balance from the state and federal railroad safety funds.

## Cineplex planned at future Morrisville shopping center

Enjoy going to the movies? Chances are if you live in this area, Shopping Center in Morrisville by the time autumn's leaves start to fall. You'll be able to catch a first-rm, which will be able to catch a first-rm, which will be the largest movie theater in North Carolina. Phase Opener will have opened, complete with 16 screens in a state-of-the-aut building on an 8.9-acre site. But watching a movie is in't all host will be offered. Conveniently located at the intersection of N.C.

54 and the planned extension of Cary Parkway, the new shopping expected in today's major retail centers, including a supermarket, drugstore and bank. Steven A. Brown, director of leasing for the Raleigh-based Kane Realty Corp., which will lease and manage the overall 200,000-square-tor retail center being developed by Atlantic RealVest, said the only tenant presently under contract is Carmike, the nation's largest heater chain which has more than 300 screens in North Carolina and 2,367 in 31 states.

"While it is premature to report on Phase Two, since no agreements have been signed, we are getting good response," he said. "We are also working on filling the eight outparcels that are available. Phase One, anchored by the theater, is targeted to open sometime in the fall, with construction of Phase Two starting about that time and opening in late spring of 1997. Why would a giant like Carruike select a site in such a small town? "It speaks well of Morrisville and development of the area," said Richard E. Rowe, director of devel-opment for Kane. He told Morris-ville commissioners the company

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usually locates in municipalities with 50,000 to 100,000 popula-tions. Morrisville has 2,000. But its access to major roads and anticipated growth, especially the expected completion of Cary Park-way in about 18 months, led the company to select the site. He likened it to up-scale, high-end projects similar to those in Preston. The theater chain, where annual sales are reported at 5324 million, is currently building its only other similarly-sized cinema in Myrtle Beach, S.C. "They certainly do their demographics and studies be-forehand," Rowe said during a meeting with town officials.

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Hartness said his home will be

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## SERVING THE CARY, MORRISVILLE, APEX AREA

Sign ups continuing. There is still time to register for various sports activities being of-fered by Town of Morrisville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. Adult softball registration con-times through March 25 for both men's and co-rec leagues. The team fee is \$350 plus \$20 for each player who is a non-resident. Adult softball play begins the week of April 22. Games and prac-tices will be held Monday through Thursday at Morrisville Elementary school. Adult basketball registration con-times through March 9 for a men's open-corporale league. Fees are the same as softball. The league, which will be limited to 16 teams, opens the week of March 18 and continues through May 14. Games and practices will

Sign ups continuing for spring sports

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