

Rep. Mosley files bill for library funding

By Mary Beth Phillips

A bill for seed money for a public library in Morrisville has been filed, and though officials like the idea of a library, they disagree on the logistics of getting one.

N.C. House Rep. Jane Mosley submitted the bill March 4, after speaking at a breakfast for the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce in February. The bill seeks \$25,000 to

Chamber, town leaders suggest possible scenarios for facility

use toward a library in Morrisville.

"When I was preparing my remarks for the [breakfast] meeting, I looked at the Chamber Directory, under major initiatives for the future, and one of them is a library," Ms. Mosley said.

"I told them that I campaigned on education and environmental pro-

tection, and this is an educational need of your town," she said.

Town officials are enthusiastic about the idea, but Wake County Library Officials are puzzled by the situation.

"We don't know what they expect from us," said Library Director Thomas Moore. "We heard that the

bill was filed, but we don't know anything more beyond that."

Funding for public libraries in Wake County is approved by the Wake County Commissioners and overseen by the county library system.

"It sounds like they have good intentions; we want to see what we

can do now," Moore said. "It might be nice if they contacted me, and gave me some idea of what it was that they hope to accomplish."

Ray Lech, director of the Morrisville Chamber, said, "We would like to see a library in town, no question about that. This would really be a godsend if we could get

that [seed money] through the state."

Billy Sauls, mayor pro tem, said, "We're a small town, trying to develop and get as many nice things for the town as we can afford; over the last several years, we have certainly made a lot of progress. A library would be a good thing."

But Sauls added, "Twenty-five
See REP. MOSLEY, page 2

Skunk race new event at Park Day

By Mary Beth Phillips

The Platters will be the headline band for the Morrisville Day at the Park, slated for May 3 at Lumley Community Park, and the Raleigh Symphony will kick off the day at noon.

"Skunk drag racing," will replace the racing pigs, ducks and goats of the past few years, and a children's stage will be set up for the first time, featuring clowns, magicians and kids karaoke.

The Catalinas and Mr. Don Cox of Knoxville, Tennessee, will also entertain during the day. Local gospel group, "The Homeland Singers" will introduce the Platters, and fireworks will be held during the intermission of the main event, about 9:30 p.m.

Last year, almost 10,000 people attended.

"We're very excited about this year's festival and the new attractions of skunk drag racing, and the Platters coming in this year and the Raleigh Symphony," said Alan Carroll, director of Morrisville Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources. "We want to welcome everybody out for a great day of fun for the whole family."

Arts and Crafts and food vendors may still register with the town through Monday, April 28.

Free kiddie rides include the Tiger Moon Walk, Dragon Moon Walk, sea of balls, mini trackless train ride, obstacle course with slide rope ladder bridge, kiddie copters, kiddie ferris wheel, pony rides, speed pitching radar, human gyro, and a miniature golf course.

Demonstrations will go on throughout the day by Gymcarolina Gymnastics, Doug Stanley's Goju Karate class, the N.C. State University Cheerleaders, the YMCA Super Skippers, magician Mike Creech, Vent the Stilt Walker, Jingles the Clown, and many more.

An Apache AH-64 helicopter will be on display, along with the Mayberry Squad Car. The fourth annual softball game between the Morrisville Police Department and the Morrisville Fire Department will be held at the field at Morrisville Elementary School.

Face painting, balloon sculpture and a dunking booth will complete the day's festivities.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled for 11:30 a.m., followed by the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra at noon. From 2 to 3:30 p.m., the

See SKUNK, page 2



PREPARING FOR THE SEASON—Gordon Rimmer has been caring for his Carpenter peach orchard the last 20 years. He says

the fruit is best when it tree-ripens and insists on delaying sales until it's time.

A labor of love

Tending a peach orchard takes hard work, customer diplomacy

By Roxanne Powers

Perhaps it was the thought of the scent of peaches wafting through his bedroom window on a summer night.

Or nostalgia from his boyhood memories of picking and selling enough apples to raise money for trips to the movies.

Twenty years ago, something motivated Gordon Rimmer to plant 220 peach trees on his Carpenter farm. Perhaps it was the extensive outlay of time and money that moved him over the years to pare the number of trees down to about 130.

With a chuckle, he says, "Now, it's strictly a love of growing them because I don't believe I even make enough money from my peaches to go to the movies!"

He and wife Nell, and mother-in-law Nellie Saunders share a love of growing things. Rimmer says the three of them have always enjoyed growing perennials and other bed-

ding plants they start in their small greenhouses.

Once a year, he and Nell enjoy a trip to Florida where they keep an eye out for any plants of interest, like citrus trees, unusual ferns and other tropical plants and flowers.

In spite of most peoples' belief that spring is the best time to plant fruit trees, Rimmer suggests that December is by far the most prudent planning time because roots grow in the winter. The cold season gives the feeder root of the trees time to develop before warm weather strikes.

"If you plant in the spring, you're going to have to water almost constantly that summer," he says.

Early spring is the best time for pruning. It takes Rimmer about two weeks of pruning before the trees begin flowering, and another two weeks to thin out about three quarters of the peaches when they are about golf ball size.

There's the spraying and fertiliz-

ing," Rimmer adds. "I'll start spraying right after the petals fall off the bloom and spray about every three weeks after that until time to harvest." Fertilizer goes on the trees in March, May and July.

Rimmer's orchard has eight or nine different varieties of peaches, which ripen at different times. Some ripen around the middle of May, and some each week after that until the first of August.

Most peaches harvested before July are a cling variety, and those after are Freestones. While a full crop produces around 400 bushels, Rimmer doesn't sell any commercially.

"I don't pick peaches when they are green. I let them tree-ripen," he added. In fact, people often arrive prepared to buy peaches, only to have Rimmer tell them he doesn't have any ready. Some people get upset because they see the trees loaded with beautiful peaches that appear to be ripe, but aren't.

"Sometimes," says Mr. Rimmer, "people will leave in a huff because they think I'm lying to them, but a peach can be pretty, and not be ripe."

"I'm not going to let someone give me their money for peaches, only to get peaches that don't taste good. Only vine-ripened peaches taste really good," he asserted.

How can he tell when they're ripe?

"I pick three and hold them in one hand, then I smell the opening that is formed in the center of them. If that opening smells sweet enough, I know they are ready," he said.

The hazards of tending even a small peach orchard are many. "In 1990 and 1991," says Mr. Rimmer, "because of frost, I didn't even harvest enough peaches to make a cobbler, but I still had to prune and spray to protect them from diseases."

"...And then there are the bee

See TENDING, page 2

Financing posed for hookups

New customers may get help paying bills

By Mary Beth Phillips

Developers and landowners who wish to connect to water and sewer will still have to pay all their money at once, after the Morrisville Town Board of Commissioners tabled a request Monday to allow payments to be financed.

Town Manager David Hodgkins presented three financing options, and outlined the typical amount that the owner of a three-bedroom home on a one-acre lot would have to pay to hook up to water and sewer.

If the road does not need to be bored, the landowner would pay \$2,167.25 for water and \$2,339 for sewer.

Mayor Pro Tem Billy Sauls looked at those numbers and saw red. "There's no way in God's green earth I am going to vote for it," he said.

Hodgkins told the board the town has been charging that amount all along and the numbers were presented as an example so commissioners would see the need to allow financing.

Hodgkins presented proposals to allow customers to finance the amount with no interest through June 30 of that fiscal year; second, to allow the customer to finance the amount for a full year at an interest rate of 5.3 percent (the town's bond interest rate); and third, to keep the policy as is, with payment required at the time of hookup.

Some commissioners said the time would need to be extended to more than a year.

"I can't afford it, and none of my friends can afford it," Sauls said.

Commissioner Leavy Yarbee said the town board needs to study the fees at a work session.

Commissioner C.T. Moore said if the amount of the fees were reduced, "We would have to give a whole lot of money back."

Mayor Margaret Broadwell said the current policy of charging fees to hook up "originated because of the cost to the town of providing water and sewer."

Hodgkins said the fees were in line with the amounts other towns charge.

Commissioner Mark Silver-Smith
See FINANCING, page 3

New gym takes members' fitness to heart

By Mary Beth Phillips

The fitness center at Prestonwood Country Club will open in April, and Club Manager Tom Stewart is ready.

With membership topping 1,500, including many families with children, the new building and new pool area come just in time.

Two huge rooms with weights and cardio equipment will replace the tiny room on the bottom floor of the clubhouse that has served members' fitness needs until now.

In the cardio-fitness room, 18 pieces of equipment are arranged in the center of the room. Members may choose headphones that link them with one of five televisions and two stereos that line the walls of the silent room, entertaining them while they ride the bikes and step on the stair-steppers.

The "strength" room will feature

Cyber resistance equipment along with free weights. A trained staff

will work on fitness profiles, and

See NEW, page 2



OPENING SOON—Prestonwood Country Club's new center will replace a tiny fitness room on the bottom floor of the clubhouse. Club Manager

Tom Stewart will oversee a staff of 35, including wait staff, cooks and aquatics personnel at the new facility which will include a swimming pool.

BULK RATE
POSTAGE PAID
MORRISVILLE, NC
PERMIT #23

Delivered expressly
to the residents of
Morrisville and Preston