

## 'Basket' puts flowers to work

By Mary Beth Phillips

About 10 years ago, Ed and Patti Kiley owned a "Flower Basket" shop in Pleasantville, New York. When they opened a shop in Preston Corners in August of 1995, one of the new customers seemed familiar.

"I think you did my wedding," the customer said. She is among several of the Kileys' current customers who had known them before in New York.

Patti Kiley is the experience behind The Flower Basket. She has been in the floral business for more than 20 years.

"I've always liked flowers," Ms. Kiley said recently, though her career started almost by accident when she went to Vocational Technical School to observe the nursing program, and "there was blood all over the place."

Deciding nursing was not for her, she opted instead for a class in ornamental horticulture.

She attended an ornamental horticulture program at S.U.N.Y. Cobleskill in upstate New York. She also attended design classes at the Metropolitan Retail Florist Association in New York City. At the same time, she continued to work at the Flower Basket in Pleasantville. Her evenings were filled with business classes at a local community college.

In March, 1983, the Kileys purchased the Flower Basket in New York where she worked until 1987 when they sold the business so she could stay home with her two young sons. Now that the boys are in school full time, she has come back to her second love...flowers!

Now she keeps up with her trade by attending design shows and reading magazines.

These days, many arrangements are created with more style and different flowers, she said. The Flower Basket carries both traditional and unusual flowers.

Ed Kiley holds down a full-time job at Reichhold Chemicals, but supports the family business when he can.



ON THE JOB—Patti Kiley was been in the floral business the last 20 years. She opened Flower Basket at Preston Corners in 1995.

The Flower Basket carries fresh, silk, and dried flowers, green and blooming plants, balloons, preserved flowers and plants, stuffed animals, and gifts. A table with a lace tablecloth features catalogs for planning weddings.

A wedding gown flows down the wall above it. Wreaths fill the spaces on the walls, and shelves are neatly arrayed with stuffed animals, picture frames, baby items and more.

On Friday afternoons, she sets up the store like a flower market and sells fresh flowers for 50 percent off.

She offers classes in silk flower arranging, wreath and swag making and fresh flower classes once a month. On April 15, she will teach a swag class with dried flowers. Cost is \$5 per person plus supplies. Space is limited. Classes begin at 7

p.m. and last approximately two hours.

In May, she is doing a class for the Senior Citizens Program through N.C. State University. A more steady selection of classes at her shop will begin again in September.

The shop is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Evening appointments are available for wedding consultations.

The Flower Basket belongs to three wire services and can wire flowers anywhere in the world.

Over the past 10 years there have been many changes in the floral industry. The Internet is just one of them. Customers can now place orders from their home computers. Look for the Flower Basket at <http://www.he.net/flowers>.

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## Town board pleased with residential surge; hope rooftops will draw 'human' services

By Mary Beth Phillips

Morrisville has always been predominantly commercial and industrial, but the number of residents has more than doubled in the past year, leading town commissioners to hope for an ultimate ratio of 70 percent business to 30 percent residential as the town is built out.

Commissioners met Monday night in a work session to discuss the future of the town, and all agreed that the upswing in residential growth was a positive development.

Mayor Pro Tem Billy Sauls said, "At one time I thought 80-20 [ratio of commercial to residential development] was uncontrollable. At this point, I can see it reaching 70-30, but I don't see it getting much below that."

Planning Director Leisa Powell told the board that there are about 900 single-family homes existing in Morrisville, and 1,100 have been approved but not yet built.

"We are moving toward residential in a big way," she said.

Ms. Powell was asking for input on the town's growth plan, which has not been updated in about six years. The planning board is beginning the intensive process of updating the land use plan. It will meet every third Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Powell will make regular reports to the town board on the progress.

Commissioner C.T. Moore cautioned that the town needs to be

aware of the quality of plans approved in the future. "We need to go first class, because we don't have that much land to develop. Twenty years from now, we can't go in and say, 'we want to build something nicer.'"

Commissioner Leavy Barbee said residential growth needs to be encouraged at all price levels. "In years to come, funds will come from state government based on the number of people in town requesting it."

"We want affordable housing," said Sauls. "But we have to keep it in proportion."

Mayor Margaret Broadwell is encouraged because commercial developers have told the town in the past there were "not enough rooftops" for a shopping center. "Maybe we can even get a doctor's office," she said.

Ms. Powell said the location near the Research Triangle Park, I-40 and the Raleigh-Durham International Airport dictates interest in non-residential.

"We have to turn them away," Barbee said.

The existing town growth plan is premised on the idea that airport noise makes at least half of Morrisville unsuitable for residential development. But after the American Airlines hub moved out, and the

paths of some flights have changed, the noise is not as prevalent as it was, Hodgkins said.

"After you live here a while, you don't pay attention to planes," said Commissioner Phyllis Newnam, who lives on the north side of N.C. 54, where no residential growth is outlined in the plan adopted six years ago.

Officials also expressed concern that Cary is building its industrial areas at the borders of Morrisville.

"They can dictate what we get," Moore said.

"We cannot make our decisions based on what Cary does," Barbee said. "This is the only area we've got so we're going to have to have a mix."

Ms. Broadwell asked that the area near Clements and Stella drives be re-examined. Industrial management zoning abuts residential zoning there and noise and lights have caused problems.

This area is also on the north side of N.C. 54. Moore and Sauls, who serve on the airport noise abatement committee, said airport officials are discouraging any residential development in that area.

"They don't want houses built in Morrisville, period," Sauls said.

Powell said buffers can be increased in the future, but only to a certain extent.

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## Board okays zoning, office buildings

The Morrisville Town Board of Commissioners approved one rezoning, two new office buildings, a residential subdivision and some more parking spaces at its meetings in March.

They are as follows.

- A flex (office and warehouse) building containing 55,000 square feet to be located on 16.575 acres in the Commonwealth subdivision to house Ferguson Printing Co.
- An 80,000-square-foot office building on 5.08 acres in the Perimeter Park subdivision.
- An additional 60 parking spaces at AP Parts Warehouse on Aviation Parkway, located on 32.229 acres. The developer will pay the town in lieu of building the sidewalk because the area is along the sewer line that will be under construction this spring when it will hook into Cary's sewer system.

After the hook-up is completed, the town will complete the sidewalk.

• Carpenter Park Subdivision, a single-family residential subdivision containing 96 lots on 22.8 acres, located off Morrisville-Carpenter Road.

• Summit Properties Partnership, L.P., to rezone 30.49 acres from industrial management and general business district to residential management district, which will allow apartments to be built at the corner of Weston Parkway and N.C. 54.

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