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Chef 'K' uses culinary talents to help the hungry

By Mary Beth Phillips

November brought a lot of changes to the life of Ed Kaminski. First, he quit his long-time job as Executive Chef at Prestonwood Country Club to start preparing to open his own business, The Glass Onion, which will primarily provide prepared meals for people who are too busy to cook.

Second, he was honored for his years of service by St. Francis United Methodist Church, receiving the St. Francis Award, an award to a member of the community who embodies the spirit of giving and community service exemplified by the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi.

Kaminski has put on a banquet called the "Taste of Hope" for the past four years and donated the proceeds to the N.C. Food Bank and the Interfaith Food Shuttle. The event has grown since 1994, and this year he raised almost as much

'I was so honored about the award. I guess there were 100 or so people nominated. When they called, I was in disbelief.'

—Ed Kaminski
former Prestonwood chef

as in past years combined—about \$75,000. This was partly due to input from a nationally acclaimed artist, Bob Rankin, who made a commemorative painting for the event. The prints are still available at Kroger stores.

Kaminski's charitable work has extended beyond organizing a banquet each year.

This year he helped Weatherstone Elementary School with its cookbook.

He has donated a meal to the Caring Place three or four times a year for the past several years.

He provided a carving station, free of charge, for a fund raiser at the Poe Health Center recently. "People had to have something to snack on," he explained.

He has hired some of the handicapped people from Life Experiences, and donates an ice carving to their auction each year.

He and his wife of four years, Robin, always provide Christmas and Thanksgiving to a mother and two daughters in Raleigh, part of the adopt-a-family program.

The proceeds of the Taste of Hope banquet were designated for

a state organization, the N.C. Food Bank, and a local organization, the Interfaith Food Shuttle, which takes perishable food donated by restaurants and grocery stores and delivers it immediately to soup kitchens or people in need.

"They know exactly where it needs to go," Kaminski said, "and they get it there quick." The money from the banquet will be used "to keep the trucks moving." He always donated his leftover food to the organization while working at Prestonwood. He soon will continue the tradition at his new endeavor.

"Wasted food is a shame," he explained.

But these generosity are a matter of course to Kaminski.

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See CHEF, page 3



A NEW VENTURE—Ed Kaminski, the former chef at Prestonwood Country Club, was recently honored for his service to community.



THE DOWNSIDE OF DEVELOPMENT—Bill Buchanan and Bill Clark, left and right, are unhappy with erosion they contend will only get worse as Perimeter Park is developed above their properties.

Part of the problem they believe is that Perimeter's large sedimentation pond has a culvert that allows more run-off than the downstream property owners can handle.

Muddy waters

Perimeter Park's downstream neighbors blame development for red runoff

By Mary Beth Phillips

Bill Clark and Bill Buchanan have approached everyone they can think of from the Town of Morrisville to the State of North Carolina to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to stop the runoff from the construction at Perimeter Park West above their properties.

Requesting help on behalf of themselves and about eight neighbors in a small residential enclave that is surrounded by booming development, the two men have run against brick wall after brick wall.

The regulatory agency that is in charge of the situation, the Wake County Soil and Erosion Control Section of the Wake County Division of Environmental Health, says developer Weeks/Lichtin is meet-

ing all of the requirements of the Sedimentation and Erosion Control Act.

"In Morrisville, they don't have a stormwater program which would actually deal with the quantity of water, as opposed to the quality," said Laura Faulconer of the Soil and Erosion Control Section. Wake County also does not have such a program.

Lichtin has met the requirements for sediment control. Ms. Faulconer said, "There are different devices throughout the project, some of them are block riser basins, inlet protections, silt fences and vegetation to help stabilize the site all through construction."

But "those devices are not designed to deal with stormwater,"

she said, adding that Weeks/Lichtin took it upon themselves to make an extra large retention basin which "when it is stabilized should relieve a lot of the concerns they have."

The three sedimentation ponds all have large culverts, which direct water down onto the residential properties that have smaller culverts.

Both men think the problems will not get better after the development is finished.

"There will be thousands and thousands of gallons of water coming from the parking lots," Clark said, as he walked the site on Nov. 19, "all coming into this pond and directed to Jesse Marcom's property."

The culvert from the second

sedimentation pond is directed at Tommy Watkins' property, and the two men cite piles of silt that has backed up in Watkins' back yard.

"If you had thousands of gallons of water running right across your yard, you'd be ill," Buchanan said. "When they get the parking lots, there will be three times the water, because there will be no land to soak it up," he added.

As the water runs across the road behind Watkins' house, rocks have washed into his yard. Trees are dying along the section as well.

"We bought this land to live on. They are just destroying it like we have no rights at all," Clark said.

"If I had done this to the Town of Morrisville's property, I'd be in

See PERIMETER'S, page 2

Apartments gobbling up capacity

Developers get okay to build 800 units

By Mary Beth Phillips

More than 800 new apartments or townhomes will be built in Morrisville after approvals by the Town Board of Commissioners at its meeting in early November, but it will be more difficult to get multi-family dwellings approved in the future.

At the end of the meeting, the board voted to consider requests for high-density residential development only on a case-by-case basis in the future. Mayor Pro Tem Billy Sauls made the motion, after stating his concern that the town would use up its water and sewer capacity.

Morrisville in July increased its sewage treatment capacity from 500,000 gallons per day to two million gallons per day when it was hooked up with the Cary Sewage Treatment Plant.

Since that time, applications, especially for multi-family residential developments, have taken off. Morrisville had been under a moratorium on multi-family developments until the connection was made to Cary.

In a similar matter, the board is considering changing its planning classifications so it can better control the number of units to be built on an acre of land in town. The current classification of residential management (RM) allows densities ranging from less than one unit per acre to 12 units per acre.

The planning board will consider an ordinance that would specify zoning classifications as R-10 and R-6, which means that one unit can be built on 6,000 square feet or on 10,000 square feet. This translates into about seven units per acre in R-6 and four units per acre in R-10.

"Staff feels that this will give the board greater control," said Planning Director Leisa Powell, who had returned Monday to help out after she left her job with the town to work for a consulting firm.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the planning board for its input, and come back to the town board in early December.

The newly approved apartment complexes are:

The Legends at Preston, a 382-unit multi-family residential development to be built on 32.11 acres off Double Eagle Court, being developed at a density of 11.89 units per acre.

Cameron Chase Apartments, a 388-unit multi-family residential development to be built on 34.145 acres at the intersection of Morrisville Parkway and N.C. 54 to be developed at a density of 11.36 units per acre. Carl Westbrook of Charlotte is the developer.

Preston Grande Multifamily, an 82-unit multi-family residential development to be built on 14.308 acres at the intersection of Cary

See APARTMENTS, page 4



CITIZENS OF THE YEAR—Betty and Chuck Gibson were recently honored by the Cary Chamber of Commerce for their work with Life Experiences.

Preston couple 'retiring' as Life Experiences fund-raisers

By Mary Beth Phillips

Chuck and Betty Gibson are trying to pass the gavel this year after organizing and running a huge auction and golf event for the past 10 years to benefit Life Experiences, Inc., an organization that employs mentally handicapped adults.

But before they could quietly move into an advisory position, the Cary Chamber of Commerce made sure people knew about the good they had done, awarding them the James E. Atkins Citizen of the Year Award on Oct. 16.

The Gibsons, who live on Boltstone Court in Preston, were part of the founding group that started Life Experiences in 1978, when a group of mentally handicapped students were getting ready to graduate from Cary Elementary School and were unable to be placed in any existing programs.

Mrs. Gibson's brother, Bill Perry, is one of the first four people served by the organization and

continues to work for Life Experiences, now in the alfalfa sprouts growing operation.

The organization started out as a bakery, and later expanded into an alfalfa sprouts growing operation, a janitorial service, and a thrift shop. Baked goods are available in individual amounts or in party trays or boxed lunches. The mentally handicapped employees work for a wage computed based on their productivity, usually around \$3 an hour, and attend skill development classes during their "down time."

Since moving to Cary in 1974, the Gibsons have given to more than just Life Experiences. Chuck was treasurer of the Imp Club while his children were in high school, and was active in Boy Scouting. He was in the Cary Rotary Club for the past 10 years, and was president of the church council for Christ the King Lutheran Church in the early 1980s. He now sits on the Preston Homeowners Association Board of Directors.

Betty Gibson has been active in Girl Scouting and PTA, was active in the Cary Woman's Club, and currently sits on the Cary Planning and Zoning Board.

But through it all they have continued to work for Life Experiences.

The non-profit, non-government supported organization survives through grants and donations, and the golf tournament has been one of the biggest contributors, raising more than a quarter of a million dollars for the organization.

See PRESTON, page 2

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