

# The Progress

Morrisville & Preston

Published Monthly

Morrisville, NC

March 26, 1998

## Residents oppose park's name change

### 201 sign petition in support of Lumley Park

By Mary Beth Phillips

Saying that people were "extremely upset" that the board of commissioners changed the name of Lumley Park back to Morrisville Park, Morrisville resident Faye Baker brought seven pages of petitions representing 201 people before the board on Monday, March 9.

"The Lumleys were truly dedicated to this town," Mrs. Baker said. "We should feel honored by what they have given to this town."

She said the new board needed to be more considerate of others, and to take care of the more pressing issues of the town.

"I am made fun of almost daily because of what you commissioners

are doing," she said, during the public comments portion of the meeting.

She turned her petition in to Town Clerk Evelyn Lumley, who has remained silent through all the attention. The park had been named for herself, town clerk for 21 years, and her husband, Ernest Lumley, who was mayor for 12 years.

Earlier, another resident, Randy Watkins, spoke against the name change, which was made at the meeting February 9 in a 3-2 split decision with new commissioners Jan Faulkner and Bill Case voting along with Mark Silver-Smith to change the name.

"I didn't have a problem with the name of the park before it was

Lumley Park, but I do have a problem with the change," Watkins said. "Not going back before the people, spending \$400 of my tax money repainting signs."

Watkins also expressed concern that the same three commissioners were trying to fire the town manager.

"If he's doing his job, leave him alone," he said. "Let's get the personalities out of things and move on with town business."

Mrs. Baker said she spent nine hours taking the petition around Huntington townhomes and the apartments behind them, and to Hatcher's Grove Baptist Church and Shiloh Baptist Church.

"Most of people at Hatcher's Grove do not live in Morrisville," she said. But in Shiloh, "I could have had more signatures if I took another piece of paper with me. I got about 32 signatures out there."

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## Board delays decision to condemn man's land

By Mary Beth Phillips

When Jesse Marcom bought his land off Airport Boulevard over 50 years ago, he was surrounded by woods and open land. Today, he is hemmed in by hotels, office parks, and a shopping mall.

Some of the Morrisville board of commissioners had sympathy for Marcom, tabling a request by Perimeter Park developers to condemn his land to put a road through Paramount Park Office Park.

The 87-year-old Marcom sat quietly at the meeting with neighbors and a lawyer as Bob Yelverton of Weeks Lichtin, developers of Perimeter Park, requested that the land be taken, because Marcom has refused to accept appraised values for the land.

An appraisal by Frank D. Leatherman, Jr., values the 62.49 acres of land at \$2.5 million. He said after the road is put through, the value of the land will decrease to approximately \$2.33 million, estimating damages at \$169,852.

He also assessed the impact of the sewer line, which would run along a creek in another area of Marcom's property. The property value, now \$2.33 million, would reduce to \$2.278 million, with damages of \$52,340.

Lichtin's developers sent the appraisal to Marcom in October of 1997, and his only response has been that he does not wish to sell the land.

Chuck Nichols of the firm Manning, Fulton & Skinner PA who was acting as attorney in place of Ted Oliver, said "Even if the town has the legal right, that doesn't mean it's right. The road is of marginal value to the town. Let it wait until its proper day."

Lichtin developers said they received no response from Marcom after sending the appraisal.

"We don't want to sell," is a response," Nichols replied.

Yelverton reminded the board that

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## Future gymnast



Photos by Mary Beth Phillips

## Spring Carnival

Weatherstone Elementary School held their second annual Spring Carnival on March 7. Over \$9,000 was raised, and every child won bags full of prizes and cakes. Abby Patrick (above) of Preston Village tries the parallel bar with help from her father Ray (right) and Bill Black (left), who runs the Little Gym for preschoolers. At right, student Margaret Smith grabs a lollipop from the lollipop tree during the school's carnival as volunteer Sandra Gutierrez looks on.



## Cavalry skirmishes on Petty Farm Road! Carpenter man documents Civil War history sites of local communities

By Mary Beth Phillips

Bryan Edwards began to be interested in the Civil War after learning about his great grandfather, who fought in both battles at Manassas in Virginia, but his interest multiplied after learning that several skirmishes took place on his native soil.

Edwards, who runs Edwards Grocery and Hardware in the Carpenter community like his father before him, has been out with his metal detector to several sites around the area and brought back lots of minie balls, which were the bullets in the days of the Civil War, and some old rusted stirrups.

Ernie Dollar of Lowes Grove in Durham was the impetus that got Edwards started and he has provided Edwards with a lot of the history of the battles that were fought here.

"He came to the house one night, and he had an old map," Edwards related. "He asked me if I knew where Morningsville was located. I had no idea. We tried to place it by looking at creeks on the map, but we

never could do it," he said.

"Then I said, 'Wait a minute, my mother has got a very unique name, Lesbia Moring. Moring is her middle name.' So I called her and asked 'where did you get the name Moring?' She said after her grandmother's people, and she had heard of the town, it was over on the edge of Chatham County. You can still see some of the old houses and grave sites over there."

Morningsville is located near the intersection of O'Kelly Road and 751, west of where Amberly will be built. It was a major stage stop because all roads led to Morningsville, Edwards said.

There was a road that led from Raleigh through Jones (which is what Cary was called before Civil War times) and from Morrisville to Morningsville, there was a road that came from Fayetteville through Holly Springs to Green Level and on to Morningsville. There was a road that came from Hillsborough into Morningsville.

"Back then they didn't have con-



Photo by Mary Beth Phillips

Bryan Edwards began to be interested in the Civil War after learning about his great grandfather, who fought in both battles at Manassas.

crete and asphalt," Edwards said "The roads ran across the ridges until they found a common place to cross creeks." Morningsville was the place where the roads crossed New Hope Creek. It was also the place

where two cavalry generals called it the end of the Civil War.

According to research by Edwards and Dollar, the two cavalry generals, Wheeler (Confederate) and

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## Broadwell asks board to fire town manager

By Mary Beth Phillips

Former Mayor Margaret Broadwell told the public at the meeting on March 9 that she had urged the new members of the board to join with Mark Silver-Smith and fire the town manager.

Mrs. Broadwell said she had supported them both in the past election, and that although Bill Case had given her his word on certain issues, he had "let me down."

"This is not a personal vendetta," she said, referring to her relationship with Town Manager David

*'This is not a personal vendetta.'*

—Margaret Broadwell, former mayor

Hodgkins, "but I know from my dealings through the years that there are many shortcomings that need to be addressed."

She and Silver-Smith have also

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## Morrisville Chamber supports FedEx hub

By Mary Beth Phillips

The Morrisville Chamber of Commerce, at its board meeting March 7, unanimously supported the bid by Federal Express to locate a hub at Raleigh-Durham Airport.

The move is in opposition to the vote of the town board of commissioners in February, opposing the proposed FedEx hub.

"We felt the positive economic impact of the hub outweighed the concerns of noise pollution and traffic problems," said Mark Bolebruch, president of the chamber, "but at the same time, we are sensitive to those issues, and we would like Federal Express to be a little bit more forthcoming with information."

Four board members were absent, and Morrisville Town Manager David Hodgkins abstained from voting, but otherwise the vote was unanimous.

Bolebruch added that two members of the board live in the flight path—Jim Gunther and Barbara McGill.

Bolebruch said the vote has not been communicated yet to the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority and to Federal Express.

"We believe that whatever Fed Ex would invest, would be at least doubled by other companies that would come in to be near the Fed Ex facility. It would bring a lot of additional economic development to the area."

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## Meyers convicted Found guilty for destroying political signs of police chief

By Mary Beth Phillips

Bryce Meyers was convicted of destroying political signs for Morrisville candidates in Wake County District Court February 24.

Meyers, of 260 Aviation Parkway, was found guilty by Judge Paul Gessner of injury to personal property for destroying the sign belonging to his former boss, Police Chief Bruce Newnam during the last election.

Meyers was allegedly caught in the act last October by Newnam's wife, Phyllis, who was also seeking re-election to a seat as town commissioner and Almeria Moore, wife of Newnam's campaign manager, Commissioner C.T. Moore.

Meyers was sentenced to 10 days in jail, suspended to one year unsupervised probation, a \$25 fine and court costs. He was also ordered to perform 24 hours of community service within the next 60 days.

Meyers' attorney immediately appealed the conviction to superior court.

Meyers and his lawyer Evelyn Davis of Durham both deferred comment until after the superior court hearing. A date has not yet been set for that hearing.

Meyers has said in the past that he was putting up signs for the candidates he was supporting for election, Bill Case, Jan Faulkner and former

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