

The Progress

Published Monthly

Morrisville, NC

May 28, 1998

\$8.3M Morrisville budget reflects town's growth

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff Writer

Morrisville's skyrocketing growth sparked the need for 23 new positions in the recommended fiscal year 1998-99 budget, with at least one position added to almost every town department to help perform the growing tasks in a growing town.

The \$8.32 million operating budget reflects a 21 percent increase

over last year's budget of \$6.82 million.

A public hearing was to be held Tuesday, May 26, but the board was expected to hold another work session in early June before voting on the budget.

Eighteen of the new positions would be added to the fire department, effective February 1, 1999, to staff the new fire station under construction at the intersection of NC

54 and McKimmon Parkway and to change some part-time firefighter positions into full-time positions.

Town Manager David Hodgkins said staff additions have been deferred in the past few years because of competition for funding of capital needs. No large capital projects are included in this year's budget.

Taxes and utility rates would remain the same—60 cents per

\$100 property valuation, \$3.23 per 1,000 gallons of water and \$6.06 per 1,000 gallons of sewage treatment service.

But Hodgkins said the water rates may have to go up if Cary raises its rates because Morrisville is not allowed to have lower water rates than Cary under its water contract.

About \$300,000 will be spent this year to replace worn out equipment, especially six vehicles in the police,

engineering, public works and utilities departments.

A total of \$1,183,271 will be needed for retirement of water and sewer bond indebtedness, and the connection to Cary's sewage treatment plant.

There are no big-ticket capital items in this year's budget, but about \$400,000 will be spent on debt service for the computer system installed this year and another

\$450,000 will be spent on debt service for the new police headquarters building and the new fire department equipment truck.

About \$275,000 will be spent on older capital debt, including the town hall building, street bonds, and parks and recreation debt service, which is mainly from purchase of the community center.

The proposed budget will allow all

See TOWN, page 4

Zascon Co to leave Morrisville

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff Writer

Zascon corporation will be closing its doors and moving its personnel to another location, several unnamed sources said this week.

But corporate officials would not confirm the reports.

Ed Hardin, center director for the Morrisville office, referred questions to the corporate headquarters in Pleasanton, California.

Kim Hayes, Vice President of Human Resources, said "the company has no comment at this time." The company employs about 500 in a telemarketing operation in Enterprise Center off Airport Boulevard.

The news comes soon after Bristol Myers announced it will be downsizing.

Charles Borgognoni of Bristol Myers headquarters said firm plans have not been finalized for the layoffs. The company employs about 450 people, and only about 25 percent will be needed to continue to manufacture Ban deodorant.

Production of the other products, Comtrex cough and cold medicines and Bayer and Bufenin pain relievers will be moved to a plant in Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

Raleigh takes over murder investigation

From staff reports

The investigation of the woman who was found dead in a car in a field off Davis Drive has been moved out of Morrisville's jurisdiction.

Alice Covington, 86, kidnapped from her home at Springmoor Retirement Community in Raleigh on Tuesday, May 12, was found dead in her silver 1993 Mercury Sable in a field about 150 yards off Koppers Road and 100 yards off Davis Drive on Thursday, May 14.

The car was apparently left there on Wednesday in tall weeds. It was discovered Thursday by a Public Service Gas employee who was going to work on a gas line in the area, said Sgt. Chris Morgan, supervisor of the Raleigh police unit investigating the murder.

Raleigh police arrested Carlette E. Parker of 2389 Zacks Mill Road in Angier Saturday, May 16 and charged her with kidnapping. Police allege that Parker drove Mrs. Covington to Smithfield for the purpose of obtaining property by false pretenses. Mrs. Covington had a bank account in Smithfield. Other charges are pending against Parker.

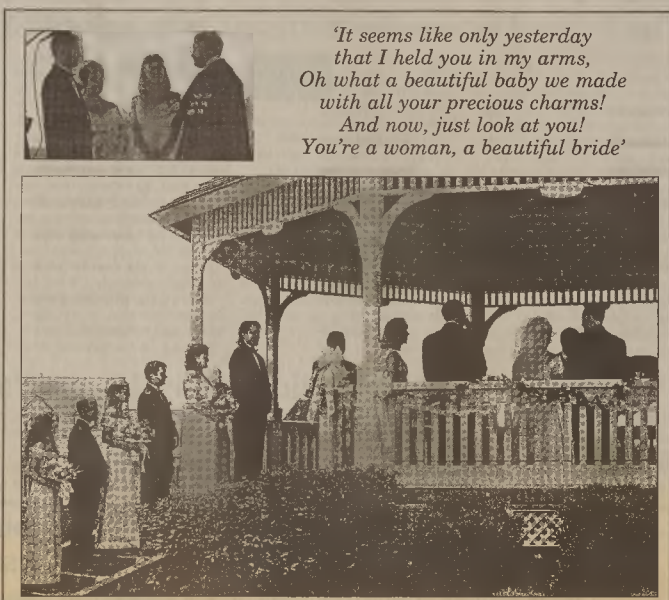
The final autopsy report has not been released, but Raleigh police charged Parker with murder one on Friday.

Morgan said a United Parcel Service employee saw a woman matching Parker's description leaving the area on Wednesday.

Parker had been convicted three years ago of several counts of obtaining over \$40,000 under false pretenses from an elderly Garner woman and was sentenced to a four-year intensive probation.

Because the murder apparently took place outside of Morrisville, Raleigh police and the State Bureau of Investigation have taken over the case.

The autopsy results were still pending as of Tuesday.



The groom Bill Burns, bride Heather Mann, her mother Gloria Hicks and the pastor (top) during the wedding vows. The beginning lyrics to Heather's Song (above). The wedding in progress.

Heather's Song brightens daughter's wedding day

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff Writer

When Gloria Hicks learned that her daughter would be getting married, she began a kind of grieving process.

Mrs. Hicks said one day after she and her daughter, Heather, had spent the day making wedding plans, "she was excited and I was heartbroken."

"When I'm depressed, I just sit down and play," the Preston piano teacher said, and before she knew it she had written a song, which she dedicated to her daughter, called "Where Did the Time Go?"

On May 16, the song played over the speakers at the gazebo at Preston Village, where Heather and Bill Burns made their vows.

Mrs. Hicks said, "When you raise a child, and you are so close,

you don't think about some guy coming and taking her away," she said. "People don't think about the emotions of the mother. You worry, you have to make sure she is making the right decision."

Her wedding day was not the first time Heather heard the song. Originally, her mother planned to surprise her with it at her wedding, but then decided things would be

too hectic then. So she presented a compact disk to her daughter at a wedding shower, and they popped it in the stereo.

"The whole room cried," Heather said. "It was hard to hear the words. They were all looking at me—I was under pressure. We were all crying."

But, "It didn't really impact me until I took it home with me."

Home is Greenville, NC, where she went to East Carolina University and met her husband. The two have bought a farm house there, after they both got jobs in the area. They met while working at an Applebee's restaurant in Greenville, and ended up taking most of their business classes

See MOTHER, page 4



Gloria Hicks composed a song for her daughter's wedding to help her handle the emotions of the day.

Life's a picnic for Nathaniel Mayo

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff Writer

The patriarch of the Shiloh community was honored on April 28 as Morrisville dedicated the new picnic shelter at Shiloh Park to Nathaniel Mayo.

Mayo, who had five daughters, joked to the gathering of town officials and members of his large family that he would have liked a son, said, "But it's good," wearing his characteristic big smile.

Mayor Gordon Cromwell summed up Mayo's life: his marriage in 1936 to Ruby, who he used to hold on his lap as a child, his brief stint working in the Baltimore shipyards (the only time he ever left home), his recognitions—the Long Leaf Award, given by the Governor's office in 1985, and a commission as Kentucky Colonel, an honor he shares with Lyndon Johnson.

At Shiloh Baptist Church he has held every position possible, from

Longtime Shiloh resident honored

'God has blessed my family, and we are happy.'

—Nathaniel Mayo,
at picnic shelter dedication

assistant pastor to choir director, Dolores Scott, a Shiloh community leader, said when she came to Shiloh as a child he was the first Sunday school superintendent she ever knew. He held the job so long she assumed no one else could do it. "I'm glad the town of Morrisville did this for our Reverend," she said.

Mayo's granddaughter, Juanita Davis, said her grandfather has "been a blessing to all of us, from whooping our booties to riding his knee."

Shiloh Baptist Church pastor Rev. MacArthur Pettiford said he had a conversation with Mayo before he was called to pastor the church at Shiloh. He said he told Mayo, "If Shiloh calls me, I will come, because you are always smiling."

Mayo's daughter, Esther Dunningan, said growing up in Mayo's household meant "we were always working; when we were not working, we came to the youth club. The men of this community were active in getting it going, and my father has always taken an active role. That's the driving force why

See MORRISVILLE, page 3

Fired Police Chief requests hearing

Bruce Newman may sue town

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff Writer

Longtime Morrisville Police Chief Bruce Newman is considering a lawsuit against the town of Morrisville for firing him April 30 "without due process."

Newman has requested a hearing by town officials, and a lawsuit will be made about a lawsuit after the hearing, said Newman's lawyer Richard Gammon.

The date for the hearing has not yet been set.

Police Sgt. Allen Rushing is running the department until the town can hire a new police chief.

Newman had worked for the town for 13 years, 11 as chief.

'They wanted the chief gone and put pressure on the town manager to do that. In the process, they trampled his due process rights.'

—Richard Gammon,
Bruce Newman's lawyer

The firing came after a board-instigated investigation of the police department. Commissioners had asked Hodgkins to investigate the

See FIRED, page 2

Platters highlight festival

Day-long fair set for June 20

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff Writer

The rain at last year's Festival in the Park will benefit those who attend the festivities this year.

The date was changed to June 20, as organizers hope for firmer ground for larger rides, and the Platters, who had to stop performing early last year because of the downpour, will return.

The Platters, based in Las Vegas, feature the legendary Monroe Powell, who has been lead singer for the group since 1970 and made the major hit song, "With This Ring I Promise I'll Always Love You."

Other Platters hits include Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, Twilight Time, Harbor Lights, and Magic Touch.

Prior to joining the Platters in 1970, Powell was lead singer for the Ink Spots and the Dominos.

A Super Slide, a kiddie roller coaster and a full-size carousel will be added to the festival this year because of the drier ground as a result of the later date, said Alan Carroll, director of Morrisville Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources.

Another highlight will be NASCAR races, featuring remote control cars that will travel up to 60 miles per hour. In all, 17 rides will be featured, including four Moon Walks, Tubs of Fun, a Ladybug Ride, a Frolic (adult ride), dunk tank, speed pitching machine, putt-putt,

trackless train, batting cage, pony rides, and helicopter ride.

Hot Air Balloon rides will be featured in the afternoon, along with parachutist exhibitions by the Carolina Sky Sports of Louisburg. Also on display will be the AH 64 helicopter from the Morrisville National Guard.

Over 75 crafts and food vendors will begin hawking their wares beginning about 9 a.m. A variety of food will range from cajun cuisine

(gumbo, jambalaya, alligator, crawfish, catfish, frog legs, rabbit, and quail) to Chinese and Mexican cuisine, polish sausages and grilled barbecued chicken. Bloomin' onions will be featured this year along with the traditional funnel cakes, popcorn, cotton candy, and nachos.

The later date will make for hotter weather, so vendors will probably sell lots of leeds and lemonades, Carroll said.

The Children's stage will feature Magician Mike Creech, stiltwalkers, Vogue modeling demonstrations, karate exhibitions, kids karaoke, demonstrations by The Little Gym, an Elvis show, jugglers, balloon art, facepainting, a jump rope demonstration, an Illusion show, and Stormy, the Carolina Hurricanes' mascot.

On the main stage, Mickey Mills and Steel Drum Band and the Homeland Gospel Singers will be among the featured groups.

Opening ceremonies will be held at 9:30 a.m. Rides will be operating

See PLATTERS, page 2

Scheduled to appear

- Platters
- Mickey Mills and Steel Drum Band
- Homeland Gospel Singers
- Magician Mike Creech

Bulk Rate
Postage Paid
Morrisville, N.C.
Permit #23

Delivered expressly to the residents of Morrisville and Preston