

Parks, Recreation fees do not raise for residents

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff Writer

Morrisville residents will get the same good deal on parks and recreation, after the town board voted to leave the resident rates the same, while raising the rates for non-resident participation.

Fee schedules for all town services will be changed as part of the annual budget process, but the fees for parks and recreation were voted on early so they could be implemented in time for summer activities.

Recommended increases for residents were unanimously voted down after a motion by Mark Silver-Smith, seconded by C. T. Moore. Rates for non-residents will rise as much as \$5 to \$15 for most activities.

For example, a spot in a soccer league will increase from \$25 for the season to \$40. Residents will still pay \$15 for the season.

New classes in stained glass painting and modeling will be offered this year, along with the usual sports leagues and arts camps.

Jimmy Huggins, assistant recreation director, said he had requests from seniors for the stained glass class. It would be offered to people of all ages. Cost to Morrisville residents would be \$35 for four classes, and for non-residents, the cost would be \$45.

The Vogue Modeling and Dance classes will also be offered to all ages. Tentatively to be held on Monday and Wednesday nights at the community center, the classes will cost \$40 per month per resident and \$50 per month per non-resident. The classes would stress poise, posture, and showmanship.

Registration for sports leagues for youth and adults and camps for

youth is still ongoing at the Morrisville Community Center.

Arts Together Education Mini Camps for grades K-5 will be held June 8-19, and July 13-24.

Two-day cricket camps for youth age 8-14. The second cricket camp will be held July 11 and 18. Registration will begin June 8.

Youth basketball league play for ages 9 and up begins July 13.

Youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held August 1 and 2 for ages 10 and up. Registration begins June 1.

Diamond Star Baseball Camp for ages 7 to 14 will be held July 6-10 and July 13-17.

Soccer Camp for ages 7 to 14 will be held July 20-24 and July 27-31.

Swimming Lessons, co-sponsored by the Cary Family YMCA will begin June 3.

Swimming Lessons, co-sponsored by the Little Gym, will begin in June. Registration begins May 30.

An adult 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held August 1 and 2. Registration will begin June 1.

Aqua Aerobics Classes will begin June 1.

A graduation party will be held June 6 with a live band from 7 to 10 p.m.

A pool party will be held June 27 from noon to 6 p.m.

Ongoing classes in the evenings include Country and Western Line Dancing on Monday nights at 8 p.m., Aerobics classes on Monday and Wednesday nights at 6:45 p.m., and Karate classes on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for youth and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. for adults.

For more information about any of these programs, call the Department of Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources at 469-9760.

Fired Police Chief wants hearing, may sue

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department and complete seven other tasks within a 60-day period.

In a special meeting on March 2, the board discussed Hodgkins' job performance and asked that he complete the tasks, which also included hiring a town engineer, obtaining water and additional sewer for the town, developing a timeline for revising the land-use plan, doing a salary study for town employees and investigating fee structures for town services.

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Silver-Smith said the town manager was on a probationary period for the 60 days, but Mayor Gordon Cromwell said he was not.

The March 2 meeting came after a February board meeting in which a lengthy executive session apparently to fire Hodgkins resulted in a stalemate among board members. Former Mayor Margaret Broadwell publicly chastised commissioner Bill Case on

March 9 because he did not vote to fire Hodgkins at the meeting.

Broadwell and Silver-Smith have repeatedly criticized both the town manager and the police chief.

Newnam's lawyer called the termination a "political matter. They wanted the chief gone and put pressure on the town manager to do that. In the process, they trampled his due process rights."

Gammon said the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled "in certain cases involving public officials, although an individual may be an employee at will, they do in fact have due process rights, rights to notice, hearings, and rights to remedy whatever problems exist. That didn't happen in this case."

Gammon would not comment on other potential reasons for a lawsuit. "There are four or five causes of action, but until the appeal is over, I wouldn't comment on the reasons," Gammon said he has requested

that the appeal be public. He added that "No one been eliminated as to who to sue and how to go about doing it."

Last September Silver-Smith filed a complaint against the police department with the state attorney general's office because non-sworn personnel were wearing police vests to direct traffic at town events. At the time, Newnam was running for mayor against Mrs. Broadwell.

The state officials found some irregularities in the department at that time, but only reprimanded Newnam. Some commissioners have said the investigation was politically motivated.

Hodgkins said he could not discuss the reasons for the firing, calling it a personnel matter. He has advertised the position. The application period will close June 1.

Newnam started with the Morrisville department in 1984 as the town's only officer, also serving

as part-time water meter reader, grass cutter and sewer plant operator. At the time the town had only four employees.

There are now 21 officers in the police department alone.

In his spare time, Newnam dresses up like Barney Fife and drives his own replica of the Mayberry Police Car in parades and at festivals. He is an active member of the Mayberry Fan Club. He is also a part-time professional wrestler.

Before coming to Morrisville he worked five years for the Gibsonville Police Department and five years for the Elon College Police Department. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps Military Police at Parris Island and Camp Lejeune.

Newnam's wife, Phyllis, just finished serving a four-year term on the Morrisville Town Board of Commissioners. She had run for reelection and been defeated in November by Bill Case.

The Swartwood family thanks all who helped Mark 'Swarty'

In hope of saying thank you to all the people who helped Mark at the time of his accident and those who were there for the family during his hospital stay and after his death, we pray that this reaches each and every one of you.

We will be forever grateful to those who jumped in and did the initial digging, subcontractors and co-workers who assisted, the fire department and emergency people who worked hours to free him, the EMS, ambulance and helicopter crews and the hospital staff.

Everyone worked together with one objective in mind, to save a man's life. The life that belonged to my husband and our children's

daddy.

You accomplished that objective and we will remember always that you did save Mark's life. God bless you all.

To Mark's co-workers and company members, to contractors and construction workers, suppliers, homeowners, friends, family, relatives, people we know and people we don't know—we thank you!

Thank you for the love, concern, prayers, help, compassion, contributions, well wishes and so much more from so many. Thank you also for heeding our wishes for privacy and our request not to send flowers.

Letter

The caring in the watery-eyed face with no expression or words and the comfort in a hug or in a prayer will last a long time.

To those who organized and moved the family into the house Mark built, the cleaners, those handling legal matters, family members sharing the confusion, the contributions and the never ending offers of help are deeply appreciated.

Special thanks must be given to my sister, my dad and a friend, and Mark's doctor who were there during the worst time of my life—I love you all for being there for me.

Our hearts are strengthened at see-

ing the impression Mark made on so many people, it makes the tears and stumbling for words understandable.

Knowing you also hurt, we hope you also find comfort.

Set aside the tragedy that affected us all and remember Mark (Swarty) as you knew him—100% all the way—he did not know how to do any less.

He would want you to remember him that way.

In ending, to us the answer to this old question is obvious; "When a tree falls in the forest, does anyone hear it?"

Thank you with love and prayers,
Robin, Matthew and Allison

Platters highlight Morrisville's Festival in the Park this June

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from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fireworks by S&W Productions of Wake Forest will be held at 9:30 p.m. The Platters will sing from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

The day's events will be sponsored by the Morrisville Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources, United Arts Council of Wake County and Raleigh, Grassroots

Arts Program, Preston Realty, Prestonwood Golf Shop and Austin Quality Foods, Beauty Lawn, Inc., BE&K Engineering, Enwood Structures, Tarheel Wood Treating,

Waste Management, Inc., Farrell Construction Co., The Little Gym, TCC Enterprises, Triangle Factory Shops, C3, Inc. and Emerald Entertainment.

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