

The Progress

Morrisville & Preston

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Santa will come to town

Morrisville's annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Open House will be held Sunday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Morrisville Town Hall. Entertainment, refreshments and Santa make this annual event a special time for the entire family.

The town will also host its first annual Holiday Magic Show on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Morrisville Elementary School. Two shows will be held, at 4:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. by Magician Michael Creech and his full-scale magic production, "Magic in Motion."

Music, comedy, audience participation and breathtaking illusions will be featured, including suspending a woman in air and the Houdini Trunk Escape.

Tickets are available at the Morrisville Community Center for \$6 (\$4 for children 12 and under), and at the show for \$7 (\$5 for children 12 and under).

For more information, call 469-9760.

Construction worker dies after fall

From staff reports

A construction worker died after falling about 30 feet Sunday at a construction site on Paramount Parkway in Perimeter Park.

Clyde E. Mahaffey, 49, of Mauldin, SC, was working for Southern Steel Erectors of Fountain Inn, SC when the accident occurred about 12:05 p.m. at 4025 Paramount Parkway in Perimeter Park. The workers were building a breezeway between two buildings, said Morrisville Police Chief Robert Whitesell.

He fell approximately 30 feet and struck his head on concrete pavement, Whitesell said.

The two witnesses, who were co-workers, said that the way he fell indicated that there was some sort of medical problem, Whitesell said.

"He didn't flail or grab at anything, or make any sort of movement," he said. "He just fell over backwards. He never made any sound."

Whitesell said he was told that Mahaffey had high blood pressure.

Officials from the NC Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) were visiting the site on Tuesday to investigate if the company violated any safety standards.

Bring fido, fluffy to mall for photos with St. Nick

Bring your pet to the mall to have his photo made with Santa during "Claus and Paws" on Sunday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Prime Outlets (formerly Triangle Factory Shops Mall).

Pet photos will cost \$5 each and the pet will receive a special holiday treat. The Raleigh Greater Greyhound Society will be on hand to distribute information about greyhound adoption.

Santa has already arrived at the mall and will be available to children weekdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays, Nov. 29 and Dec. 20 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24.

Special activities are planned for Friday, Nov. 27, when the mall will open at 8 a.m. and early shoppers will have a chance to win a shopping spree; and Dec. 5 from noon to 6 p.m. when a puppet show, roaming musicians and a military band will entertain. Beginning Nov. 20, shoppers who spend \$200 at the mall will receive a holiday CD and a \$5 gift certificate good for after the holidays.



Debbie Jernigan, with her dog Jigs, took her life savings and invested in Christmas Tree and fruit stand in Morrisville.

Morrisville's first annual Christmas Tree stand opens

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff writer

After Debbie Jernigan was laid off from her job in October, she took her life savings and invested in Christmas trees.

She is running Morrisville's first Christmas tree stand on Aviation Parkway next to the Cedar Fork Soccer Park.

Jernigan is also selling fruit and peanuts and will make fruit baskets and topiaries (fruit designed in the shape of Christmas trees) to order, along with the usual wreaths and garlands.

Though she lives in Raleigh, her friend, Clifton Moore of Morrisville, arranged for her to use the land owned by Gerald Perry just north of NC 54 on the left-hand side.

Moore has also been a help to her in setting up the stand. He has also spent the night in the motor home Jernigan has parked on the site to help guard

'I love Christmas. I just thought this would be something special.'

—Debbie Jernigan,
Tree stand owner

against theft of the 140 trees, which range in size from five feet to 11 feet.

The hardest part about setting up was getting a license from the town. Since there had never been a Christmas tree stand before, there were no rules on the books as to what was needed. Because she was also selling fruit, the matter became even more complicated.

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Preston residents Carol Spreitzer and Jack Reppert enjoy helping others at WIVC.

The gift of volunteering rewards two Preston residents

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff writer

Two Preston residents who give their time to the Wake Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers have found it's true that the reward is greater than the gift of volunteering.

Jack Reppert, retired from the US Air Force and Corps of Aviation, has met interesting people as he has driven them to doctor's appointments or the airport or simply spent time with them in their homes.

Carol Spreitzer has widened her circle of friends as she has visited local businesses requesting financial

assistance for the organization.

Both learned about WIVC when it expanded to include St. Michael's Catholic Church about two years ago. The organization had been operating in Raleigh for about six years, providing transportation, companionship, grocery shopping, short-term respite care and light house and yard work to elderly and disabled people in the community.

Reppert has been asked to help out for several hours every other week, and has been almost exclusively recruited to help one woman in the St. Michael's parish. But he has also spent time with a retired Chinese

man who had had a stroke—and learned that he was retired from the Chinese Air Force, "so he was aware where the air bases were and so forth." Reppert plans to go over and visit on his own, he enjoyed the conversation so much.

He has taken a lady to visit her husband in a nursing home one time, and once he took a young, handicapped girl to the dentist.

Last month, Reppert agreed to pick up a "care receiver" who was going to speak at the Volunteer Thank You Coffee, held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Raleigh. He

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Major clean-up starts at historic Shiloh cemetery

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff writer

With the help of the county and the state, Waste Industries has begun removing thousands of tires which are clogging the path to an old Shiloh community cemetery that was used in the early 1900s.

No one knows who dumped the tires on the dirt drive off Weaver Road. There are also old televisions, car parts, appliances and other junk at the site, which is near a Carolina Power & Light easement for power lines.

The Shiloh community held a kick-off press conference last week, expressing their relief and excitement that the clean-up has begun. Dumping began at that site as early as 1994.

"It's a great lift up for me because in this community, we have friends to help us clean up," said Ruby Mayo, a Shiloh matriarch.

"I have relatives in the old cemetery," she said. "We feel kind of hurt that people were dumping there. It's a health hazard, too. It creates rats and snakes. And it makes our church look bad," she added.

Mrs. Mayo admitted that the community had neglected the old cemetery after the new cemetery was put in at Shiloh Baptist Church. "I'm so

'I have relatives in the old cemetery. We feel kind of hurt that people were dumping there.'

—Ruby Mayo,
Shiloh matriarch

glad we woke up, got up and are doing something about it."

The clean-up will be paid for through county and state grants that were awarded after Shiloh residents approached the Wake County Department of Environmental Services for help. The county department has set aside up to \$20,000, and put out the bid for the contractor, said Carlette Southern-Roberts, director of the department. Waste Industries has contracted to perform the clean-up. After the clean-up, the county department will submit a bill to the NC Department of the Environment and Natural

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380 more apartments, 236-room hotel on tap

By Mary Beth Phillips
Staff writer

Despite comments from four citizens urging them to "heed the advice of the people," and despite the planning board's recommendation to wait until the Land Use Plan is complete, the Morrisville Board of Commissioners approved another 380 apartments at the Nov. 9 meeting.

The board also approved an eight-story hotel in Airpark subdivision, which will be the tallest building in Morrisville, the site plans for two other previously-approved apartment complexes and a lab facility in Perimeter Park.

The new apartments will be part of a larger development which also includes a single-family area and a commercial area located on the east side of Chapel Hill Road between Weston Parkway and Crabtree Creek (in an area where apartments already proliferate) to be developed by Preston developers. Plans include a 148-unit single family area of 102.7 acres, a 33.7-acre park site that is located in a flood plain, and an 11.8-acre tract zoned general business where a shopping center will be located.

The apartments will be located on 31.6 acres with a density of 12 units per acre. However, the total density of the project is 3.9 units/acre, so a special use permit was not required. (The town requires any development over five units per acre to obtain a special use permit).

After getting an agreement from developer Karl Blackley to donate three acres of the proposed commercial area for a library site, C.T. Moore made the motion to approve the entire development. Blackley also agreed to build a walk bridge over NC 54.

Mark Silver-Smith seconded

Moore's motion, and Leavy Barbee also voted for approval. Jan Faulkner voted no, saying the development could be reworked into all single-family lots (after which loud applause erupted in the auditorium). Bill Case was absent.

Alan Klimeck told the board during public comment time that "nothing has been approved yet. No one is going to get sued. You have been elected to represent the needs and desires of the people; heed the advice of the people and have this all be single-family houses."

Dave Goulding asked for the same scrutiny and diligence that the board used in examining requests for communications towers during the previous months.

"I'd rather see six or seven towers than six or seven apartment complexes," he said. "Towers don't congest our streets; apartments do. Towers don't congest our schools; apartments do. Towers don't bring crime to the area; apartments do. Enough is enough."

Richard Elliott cautioned the board not to accept "useless land," referring to the park land located in the flood plain. "I'd rather accept cash. Let the developer keep that tract and pay taxes on it which would help the town."

Liz Johnson read from the town ordinance grounds for refusal of a site plan. The plan can be denied "if the town board of commissioners feels that denial of the site plan will preserve the public's health, safety and welfare or will otherwise serve the public interest of the citizens of the Town of Morrisville," she read.

The three acres for the library will satisfy the town's ordinance, which requires dedication of 1/35 acre of park land for each residential unit with no more than 40 percent of the area to be within a flood plain. The

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