

# The Progress

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and Preston

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## Cary money may speed up NC 55 widening

**\$50 million improvement project could begin next year**

By Mary Beth Phillips  
Staff Writer

A 13-mile stretch of NC 55, starting at the US 64 junction and continuing west towards Durham, could be widened in less than a year if a way can be found to use money offered by Cary to speed up the process.

For most of the nearly 150 people

who attended an information session held at the Carpenter Fire Station on Tuesday, March 16, that was good news. To others, widening the road simply meant the opportunity for more growth and the loss of the rural lifestyle they have enjoyed.

"We're going to turn into New Jersey," warned Wendy Mason, who lives in the Woods of Chatham, west of NC 55 near the Carpenter community. Rather than adding more lanes, she said the road should stay two lanes. "If we fill it up, then they can't build any more."

DOT Engineers place the road at level of service "F", the lowest possible level because traffic is completely stopped many times during

## Carpenter brothers caught in historical trap

By Mary Beth Phillips  
Staff Writer

When Dale and Joel Carpenter agreed that the Carpenter crossroads, including the historic feed store (circa 1870), and the 1910 Ferrell store building should be

designated as a historic area, they didn't know that the state Department of Transportation would be so anxious to avoid the historic area that they would put the alignment for the widening of N.C. 55 entirely on the west side and destroy the parking lot of

the course of a day, usually at rush hour.

Residents who live on the busy highway objected to the plan because it would take part of their yards. The preliminary design that

was presented on March 16 would not take any homes or businesses, only land. Most residents who attended were glad to see some relief, and hoping that construction really will begin by the beginning of

Carpenter Texaco, which they also own.

Jay Bissett, P.E., project planning engineer for DOT, called officials from the State Historic Preservation Office in to his office last week to look at aerial maps to see if the road can be

moved from its preliminary alignment, which would take most of Carpenter's parking lot and would run over the gas tanks at neighboring Edwards' Grocery and Hardware.

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## Rifki receives scholarship to NC State

Oktaay Rifki of Morrisville has been selected to receive the Park Scholarship at N.C. State University, valued at more than \$47,000, and one of America's most prestigious undergraduate scholarship programs.



Oktaay Rifki

Rifki, the son of Fatih and Hatice Rifki, will graduate from Enloe High School, where he is a member of the National Honor Society, Spirit Club, and Students Against Drunk Driving. He has played in the CASL soccer league since he was five and currently serves as captain of his team. He is also active in the American Turkish Association of North Carolina and edits the organization's monthly newsletter. He hopes to become active in the Turkish Student Association at N.C. State.

He has a 5.234 weighted grade point average. Not only is he smart, he is a good sport. This year, he served as the Enloe mascot Eagle in disguise. "I love clowning around in front of everybody," Rifki said, adding that it was hot inside the costume. "I drank more water than the football players," he said.

Rifki is a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist and a participant in the N.C. Academy of Science. He plans to major in chemical engineering but will probably continue his education in medical school or law school, he said. His main interest is research, he said, after an internship last summer at the Army Research Organization, where he worked with a statistics professor and with Nortel doing quality control analysis using statistical methods.

The scholarship includes full tuition for four years, plus a stipend for each student to purchase a personal computer and peripherals.

## Cinemas will reopen for Star Wars

The Park Place movie theater, which has been closed since Feb. 8 while stadium seating is installed, should reopen by the middle of May in time for Memorial Day when the summer movies are released, and in time for the May 19 release of the prequel to *Star Wars*.

Phil Smiley, assistant vice president and controller for CarMike Cinemas at its headquarters in Columbus, Ga., said the stadium seating is needed because of the good business at the theater.

It costs from \$75 to \$100,000 per screen to put in the stadium-style seating, which features a stair-step floor with a higher elevation for each row behind the previous row, Smiley said.

The new seats will provide "a totally unobstructed view of the screen no matter where you sit in the theater," he said.

## Looking for a prince



PHOTO BY MARY BETH PHILLIPS

Rachel Adams (center) and Caitlin Reddin examine a bullfrog during the Science Go Round held at Morrisville Elementary School recently while Rocki Mayhew (left) looks on. The N.C. Museum of Natural Science brought live animals to exhibit to students, one of many exhibits students visited during the day.

## From Bosnia to Morrisville

Local man leaves war-torn country to start a new life in North Carolina

By Mary Beth Phillips  
Staff Writer

Edin Smajic started learning English in 1992 any way he could, mostly by listening to rock 'n roll records.

He knew he would need it if he was allowed to leave Bosnia, and there was nothing left for him there. His life had been disrupted and left in a shambles by the war that lasted for more than three years during the early 1990s.

During the war, Smajic was confined to a 1,000-foot-by-1,000-foot area near his home in Sarajevo. He was protecting the front from the Serbian army, filling two 24-hour shifts a week guarding the border, and hanging out and learning English for the rest of the time, because there were no jobs. Though the stores were all shut down, he had quite a supply of English books and records—he played the songs when the power was working, which was only a small percentage of the time.

Several times he escaped from the area via a street where more than



PHOTO BY MARY BETH PHILLIPS

Edin Smajic pots a plant in the greenhouse at Bloomin' Orchids. He is a Bosnian refugee who has been in America about three months.

700 people had been killed trying to cross. He took food to his 10-year-old son, who was with his ex-wife in another part of the city. Because Smajic was a non-smoker, he had no trouble getting food. Soldiers received a pack of cigarettes a day, and about 90 percent of them smoked. The food was tins, rice, macaroni, or beans, but he never went hungry.

"I didn't see fruit for two years," he added, between 1992 and 1994.

The other part of the time was spent fighting outside the city. The U.N. Protective forces held the airport, and soldiers could get in and out through a 2,000-foot tunnel under the airport. He went out and came back four different times during the war.

In October, 1995, Smajic began a four-month stay in the hospital after he was hit in the right chest by fall-out from a grenade. He was pumped

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## Expanding Pharmaco joins forces for research

By Mary Beth Phillips  
Staff Writer

PPD Pharmaco, which is rapidly expanding in Perimeter Park, joined with another company last month to start a new line of research called pharmacogenomics, adapting drugs to individual genetics.

Intek Labs, which PPD bought in 1997 was absorbed into the new joint venture with Axyx Pharmaceuticals, forming a company called PPGx, which is now the largest pharmacogenomics company in the world.

PPD will provide initial funding

for PPGx, receive exclusive marketing rights to PPGx pharmacogenomics products and services, and hold a minority ownership position in the new company with options to increase its ownership share.

Pharmacogenomics research will change the way people are diagnosed and treated for diseases. The researchers can look at each individual's DNA to find how he or she metabolizes certain drugs, and adjust the dosage accordingly. An extensive metabolizer will need a larger dose than a poor metabolizer. The research helps the poor metabolizer.

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## Town's new fire station opens ahead of schedule

By Mary Beth Phillips  
Staff Writer

The 18 new firemen were supposed to begin sleeping at the new fire station Monday night, about a week earlier than the contractor had promised to have the station completed.

Patriot Building of Hillsborough completed the station early and within budget, said Morrisville Fire Chief Tony Chiotakis. The 8,715-square-foot station built on 4.1 acres at the corner of N.C. 54 and McCrimmon Parkway was budgeted at \$1.02 million.

The new firemen were working

out of station No. 1 in central Morrisville for one week beginning March 15—but Chiotakis said they were not crowded. The 18 firefighters work in three eight-hour shifts, six at a time.

Engine No. 2 and the new ladder truck will be based at the new station. The ladder truck is expected to be delivered by the end of April.

The fire station will serve the northeast part of town and the Wake County portion of the Research Triangle Park. The ladder truck will be needed for multi-story office buildings there, but also for some multi-story apartment buildings in

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## Ganymede top 15 software company, says PC Week

From Staff Reports

PC Week named Ganymede Software, Inc., of 1100 Perimeter Park Drive in Morrisville, to its list of the top 15 companies to watch in 1999.

Ganymede has become a leader in end-to-end performance management. In other words, "We help companies manage their networks so users' applications will run better," said Katherine Demacopoulos of Ganymede's public relations department.

Other companies named to the list include Amazon.com, Caldera, Foundry Networks and Red Hat Software. Ganymede was also recently named to digital's annual list of 50 companies to watch in the coming year.

According to PC Week, "Ganymede is in the right place at the right time. Performance management is going to take center stage for IT over the next 24

*'Ganymede is in the right place at the right time.'*

—PC Week

months. Ganymede's tools monitor end-to-end performance of critical and distributed applications and will make the company a leader in that space."

Steve Joyce, vice president of marketing of Ganymede Software Inc., said, "We are pleased to be recognized by PC Week as one of the companies poised to make a great impact in the coming year. Our strategy is to enable Information Technology departments to deliver reliable, predictable application per-

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