

It may not have been the immediate answer they were looking for, but residents along Manorwood Drive can be assured that their complaints did not go unnoticed among the Kernersville Board of Aldermen.

During Tuesday's Board of Aldermen meeting, aldermen

amount of noise and light coming from Deere-Hitachi on West Mountain Street at all hours of the night. The aldermen told the citizens they would take their concerns back to Deere-Hitachi and encourage them to take appropriate action.

"I hate there isn't more we can do in the immediate future,

we can for you," said Alderman Kenny Crews. "We will continue to do our research to find the proper solution because we need to do it right."

Alderman Irving Neal echoed those remarks.

"We want to make things

See "Deere-Hitachi" Page 7

A new look

Town approves changing signage in parks regarding firearms

By WENDY FREEMAN DAVIS
Features & News Editor

Kernersville aldermen voted unanimously Tuesday night to change the Town of Kernersville's signs regarding firearms in parks, effectively ending threats of legal action by a statewide guns rights group.

Grass Roots North Carolina (GRNC) took issue with the signs last month, all of which state "No Firearms or other Weapons Allowed on This

Property," before referencing the section of the Town's code of ordinances that addresses the matter.

In the ordinance, only two exceptions are made to the ban on firearms inside Kernersville's parks, one for law enforcement officers and the other for those who legally hold conceal carry permits.

Under state law, conceal carry permit holders are allowed to carry their weapons on playgrounds in Kernersville's

parks, hiking/biking trails at all times and on athletic fields when there is not a Town sponsored event taking place.

Conceal carry holders are still prohibited from carrying their weapons on the Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex soccer fields, including the playing fields, sidelines, restrooms, bleachers and concession stands; the complex's multi-use softball and baseball fields,

See "Park signs" Page 2

Newly nominated



Angela Fuller, founder of Focus on the Family, is the association, Holden Fuller, is the association's vice president. See story below. (Photo contributed)

A far Krawiec to fill

By WENDY FREEMAN DAVIS
Features & News Editor

Kernersville resident Joyce Krawiec, who serves as the vice chairwoman of the state GOP, was nominated Tuesday night to fill the N.C.

Park signs

Continued from Page 1

including the playing fields, sidelines, restrooms, dugouts, bleachers, stands and concession stands; and the lacrosse fields and their sidelines.

Concealed handguns are also not allowed at swimming pools, including any secondary facilities used for dressing, storage of personal items or other uses related to the swimming pool.

Members of the GRNC have said they do not have a problem with the Town's actual ordinance regulating weapons in parks; however, they have taken exception to the usage of the term "No Firearms" on the signs inside Kernersville parks, arguing that the signs imply no firearms at all, even to conceal carry permit holders.

On the other hand, Town officials have argued in response that conceal carry permit holders should be aware of the laws regarding where they are permitted to carry their weapons and where they are not, and that because the Kernersville park signs list the specific ordinance regarding weapons, the signs are in compliance with state law.

In a letter to Mayor Dawn Morgan in December, GRNC President Paul Valone made the organization's concerns regarding the signs clear, saying they should be removed to bring the Town into compliance with state law. Valone also said if the signs were not removed, GRNC would begin costly legal action against the Town. A few days later, he issued an alert to members to contact Kernersville officials in protest and attend the aldermen's January 7 meeting at Town Hall.

Several GRNC members

Park Entrance Signage for all Parks

All weapons, including Firearms, are prohibited in this Park except concealed handguns carried pursuant to and in compliance with a valid concealed handgun permit.
See Town Ordinance Sections 11-7(c) and 20-15(7) and Chapter 14, Article 54B of the North Carolina General Statutes
Violators shall be prosecuted

Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex Entrance Signage

All weapons, including Firearms, are prohibited in this Park except concealed handguns carried pursuant to and in compliance with a valid concealed handgun permit, except that the concealed carry exception does not apply at Athletic Fields during organized athletic events scheduled by or with The Town. See Town Ordinance Sections 11-7(c) and 20-15(7) and Chapter 14, Article 54B of the North Carolina General Statutes
Violators shall be prosecuted

Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex Field(s) Signage

All weapons, including Firearms which include concealed carry by permit, are prohibited on this playing field, the sidelines, restrooms, bleachers and concession stands, during organized athletic events scheduled by or with the Town.
See Town Ordinance Section 11-7(c)
Violators shall be prosecuted

Above are examples of the language in the park signs regarding firearms at town approved by the Board of Aldermen on Tuesday night.

to the Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex and a third to be placed at the fields inside the complex, each providing in lengthy detail where conceal carry permit holders may enter with their weapons.

"If you want that much verbage on your sign, this is fine," directed Wolfe.

Town Manager Curtis Swisher estimated that the Town would need 12 of the first signs for the parks, two of the second for entrances at the

as well as Andy Stevens, of Greensboro, who spoke as a representative of the organization. Kernersville resident Harvey Pulliam also spoke in support of the GRNC and its efforts.

McClellan, Reese and Stevens all said they were happy with the direction of the discussion, with all three abandoning their planned statements in light of the developments.

"I do not plan on giving

Triad Park, rules and regulations signs still prohibit firearms.

Reese told the Board that he was happy with what he was seeing from the Board in regard to changing the signs. Reese also said he didn't recall that the signs had to be put up in the first place.

Stevens called the change "favorable," saying the current signs are illegal and would be contested in court. He, too, questioned the placement of the signs in the first place.

"Just because you can do something doesn't mean you need to," said Stevens.

Stevens said the GRNC is a volunteer organization, with 15,000 active members and 90,000 members statewide fighting for the rights of 400,000 conceal carry permit holders who live in N.C. and with competent attorneys ready to argue the legality of the matter in court.

In the organization's campaign against Kernersville's signs, GRNC letters and emails described Town officials as taunting gun owners, said Neal, with Alderman Tracey Shifflette taking offense at the Board being called "hooligans."

"When you devolve to name calling like hooligans, I don't appreciate it," said Shifflette.

Neal wanted to know if GRNC was going to be as aggressive with other municipalities as members had been with Kernersville.

"Yes," responded Stevens, saying GRNC will respond when violating signs are discovered.

"As a conceal carry permit holder, I support your efforts,

Several GRNC members and representatives were present during Tuesday night's aldermen meeting to hear Alderman Irving Neal ask that the Board approve altering the signs, although his remark "a little bit" might have been an understatement.

Neal said that while he trusts Town Attorney John G. Wolfe, III and his assertion that the current signs are in compliance with state law, he wanted to see if the Board could do something to change the signs regarding conceal carry permits.

Wolfe directed the aldermen to look at three new signs that had been drafted, with one to be placed at the entrances to all of Kernersville's parks, another to be placed at the entrance

to the second for entrances at the sports complex and another 12 of the third on the athletic fields, with perhaps an additional five ordered as spares.

"We could have a couple extra on hand in case one gets damaged," said Swisher.

Parks and Recreation Department Director Ernie Pages said it would take between two and two-and-a-half weeks for the signs to be manufactured, but they could be up in a couple of days. None of the aldermen questioned or mentioned the cost of the signs.

GRNC members who addressed the Board included Kernersville residents Bob McClellan, who first brought the issue to the attention of the GRNC, and Brian Reese,

developments. "I do not plan on giving you my dissertation because of the positive movement I see on this Board," said McClellan. "I think it is a bit over-complicated, but it is acceptable to me."

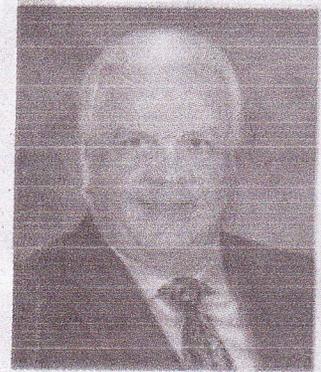
McClellan noted that signs at Triad Park prohibiting firearms were rectified with the simple application of brown duct tape, to which Neal responded curtly.

"We're not going to operate this town with duct tape," Neal said sharply in response.

Neal and Swisher pointed out that none of the signs in seven surrounding municipalities are the same, even inside their own boundaries. Swisher said that while duct tape has changed some of the signs at

holder, I support your efforts,

Smart F fo



checkbook. It's also a good thing wrong, the faster you correct (the damage). On the other hand, a banking error, you may be out for 60 days from the date (or in print) to contact your financial institution.

• **Pay attention to your daily transactions.** Human beings still make mistakes. A price, or for a store clerk to punch in the wrong amount. Our "hurry-up" culture doesn't allow for mistakes. On credit card transactions you're charged, there can add up to a significant amount. On routine financial transactions, like a credit card checkout register. Do the measure, check the receipt for errors, and point out the error so it can be corrected.

• **Save your receipts.** Your receipts are important. Monitor your accounts. If there's a discrepancy, your receipt may be the only proof. Merchants require a receipt in order to dispute a charge. Finally, if you itemize business expenses, your deductibles and substantiation are important. Like handling the paper, request receipts.

• **Respect your cash.** If you're using cash, for a month, take note of how you spend. For a week instead of using a credit card, you're spending. You may be surprised to grasp on how much you spend.

These common sense reminders can help you identify specific goals for spending. Contact Randy Walker for more information.

*<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/021>
Randy Walker, is a Financial Advisor and Assistant Manager at Ameriprise Financial. You can contact Randy at 336-819-5714, 4111 Mendham Road, #100, Greensboro, NC 27409. You can also contact him at randy.k.walker@ampf.com.

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Randy Walker
4100 Mendham Road

Postage increase

Prices will increase on January 26

The price of a first class U.S. postage stamp will increase on Sunday, January 26 from 46 to 49 cents and postcard postage rates will increase from 33 to 34 cents, according to the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

Customers can continue to use the Forever Stamps after the 2014 U.S. stamp cost increases.

The USPS said the rate

increases are intended to generate \$2 billion in incremental annual revenue for the Postal Service.

In a letter issued to customers, Board of Governors Chairman Mickey Barnett described the "precarious financial condition" of the USPS and the "uncertain path toward enactment of postal reform legislation" as primary reasons for seeking price changes above the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase. He also said the price adjustment above the CPI increase is needed to ensure the USPS will be able to maintain and continue the development of postal services of the type and quality Americans need, the USPS said.

For more information, visit usps.com.

Unemployment rates

November figures released for November

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 91 of N.C.'s counties in November and increased in nine. All 14 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, according to state data released on Thursday.

Scotland County had the highest unemployment

rate at 13.5 percent. Orange County had the lowest at 4.3 percent. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 10 percent experienced the highest rate and Durham-Chapel Hill at 5.1 percent had the lowest, according to the data.

The November, not seasonally adjusted, statewide unemployment rate was 6.0 percent.

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- Also Available

Signage for all Parks

Firearms, are prohibited in this and handguns carried pursuant to and in concealed handgun permit. Sections 11-7(c) and 20-15(7) and the North Carolina General Statutes shall be prosecuted

Sports Complex Entrance Signage

Firearms, are prohibited in this and handguns carried pursuant to and in concealed handgun permit, except that this provision does not apply at Athletic Fields for events scheduled by or with the Town Sections 11-7(c) and 20-15(7) and the North Carolina General Statutes shall be prosecuted

Sports Complex Field(s) Signage

Firearms which include concealed carry on this playing field, the sidelines, concession stands, during organized events scheduled by or with the Town. Ordinance Section 11-7(c) shall be prosecuted

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Grass Roots North Carolina (GRNC) representative Andy Stevens (left) and Kernersville resident and GRNC member Brian Reese (right) both spoke at Tuesday night's Board of Aldermen meeting about park signs regarding firearms as well as about steps being taken to change the signs. (Photo by Wendy Freeman Davis)

but the Town did not taunt town's general fund and the change should be completed in the next 30 days. The vote among Board members to approve the measure was unanimous, minus Mayor Pro Tem Joe Pinnix, who missed Tuesday night's meeting due to surgery.

Neal made a motion that the Town change all its signs regarding firearms in parks as recommended by Wolfe, with Shifflette seconding the motion. The money to purchase the signs will come out of the

Town's general fund and the change should be completed in the next 30 days. The vote among Board members to approve the measure was unanimous, minus Mayor Pro Tem Joe Pinnix, who missed Tuesday night's meeting due to surgery.