

The State Port Pilot

A Good Newspaper
in a Good Community

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BOILING SPRING LAKES

Building a better city, one brick at a time

By Jonathan Spiers
Staff Writer

When Eleanor Erickson and Jen Iapalucci moved to Boiling Spring Lakes with their respective families, they wished there was more for their children and others to do.

Rather than complain to the city or its parks and recreation department, they decided to team up with both, establishing a grassroots group called "Where We Live" to raise funds to help improve the city's parks, provide more activities and create a sense of place for area youth.

"We want to bring a downtown, main-street feeling to Boiling Spring Lakes," Erickson said. "We both moved here from Southport, and prior to that we were living in Atlanta, and we realized we're having to trek many places, like Leland or Wilmington, for good playgrounds and places that can host activities like hockey games.

"We see businesses and parks and recreation trying to help Boiling Spring Lakes grow, and we want to be part of that excitement," she said.

Formed earlier this year, "Where We Live" has already launched its first fundraising campaign, pledging to raise \$30,000 through sponsorships to improve Muse Park behind city hall. Businesses, families and other sponsors can purchase a brick engraved with their name, logo or other designs offered through the campaign, and those bricks would then assemble a walkway leading to



Boiling Spring Lakes residents Eleanor Erickson, left, and Jen Iapalucci are leading a fundraising group called "Where We Live" to raise money for parks and activities for area children, such as Iapalucci's son, Max. Their first campaign is to sell engraved bricks for a sidewalk leading to Muse Park.

Photo by Jonathan Spiers

the park.

Pending the success of that first campaign, Erickson and Iapalucci hope to conduct similar efforts not only in Boiling Spring Lakes but also in Southport and other communities.

"The initial response has been

so positive," Erickson said, referring to Mary Green, director of parks and recreation for Boiling Spring Lakes, who she said was delighted to learn about the initiative.

While each community already strives to provide more for its

residents, "Where We Live" is meant to supplement those efforts, Erickson said. Rather than waiting on walking trails, bicycle routes and other amenities that define a community, the group wants to be part of the process.

"We have to make the change,"

she said. "It starts with us."

For more information on "Where We Live," as well as sponsorship opportunities and other ways to participate, visit the group's Web site at www.wherewelivenc.com.

State lifts burning ban for Brunswick County

State and local fire officials lifted a ban on open burning for Brunswick and five neighboring counties late last week.

Open burning is again allowed with a permit in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover and Pender counties. The N.C. Division of Forest Resources and fire marshals in all six counties imposed the ban April 27. Officials decided to lift the ban after the region began experiencing cooler and wetter weather.

NCDFR county rangers and designated agents in these counties are again issuing

burning permits.

Most of North Carolina is still experiencing dry conditions and state forestry officials are warning persons to be careful if they burn outside. Based on North Carolina's open burning laws, the Division of Forest Resources offered these tips to landowners:

- Obtain an approved burning permit. They are available at any Division of Forest Resources office, a county-approved burning permit agent, including stores, or online at drf.state.nc.us.

- Check the weather. Don't burn if conditions are too dry or too windy.

- Consider alternatives to burning. Some yard debris such as leaves and grass may be of more value if it is not burned.

- Only burn natural vegetation on the property. Burning household trash or any other manmade materials is illegal. Trash should be hauled away to a convenience center.

- Plan burning for the late afternoon when conditions are typically less windy and more humid.

- If you must burn, be prepared. Use a shovel or hoe to clear a perimeter around the area of the burn.

- Keep fire tools ready. To control the fire, use a hose, bucket, a steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Never use flammable liquids such as kerosene, gasoline or diesel fuel to speed debris burning.

- Stay with your fire until it is completely out. In North Carolina, human carelessness leads to more wildfires than any other cause.

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