

Sorority raising money for schools

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By Toya Graham

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FORT MILL TOWNSHIP — Like to golf? Looking for an excuse to load up the golf gear and take to the greens?

Well, here's your chance.

Novice and seasoned golfers alike can help a Fort Mill/Tega Cay group pour some money into the Fort Mill School District. The Fort Mill/Tega Cay chapter of Beta Sigma Phi will sponsor its fourth annual charity golf tourney Monday, April 26.

"All proceeds will go to the Fort Mill schools," Heather Doran, Beta Sigma Phi president, said.

Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. at Fort Mill's Springfield Golf and Country Club. Shotgun start is 9:30 a.m.

Approximately 88 golfers have committed, but organizers need more players. Individuals can play for \$75 each; the group rate is \$300

per foursome.

"Everyone matters," she said. "Every person who participates will help us achieve our goal in supporting the Fort Mill schools."

The benefit tourney, which pays a cash prize to the winners, comes at a time when the Fort Mill School District, like many other districts, is wrestling with how best to balance its operational budget for the 2010-2011 school year. The district faced two state funding cuts this year, and more cuts are expected next year, district leaders project. The Fort Mill School Board recently took steps to shave about \$5 million from next year's budget.

That means programs and positions are gone and five- and 10-day furloughs are a given.

"It's important for everyone to understand the impact budget cuts will have within our schools,"

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Doran said. "We are encouraging anybody to come participate."

In addition to registration fees, the group also will accept donations that will benefit the innovative classroom teacher project, she said.

"This money will allow the school district to provide money for teachers attempting to get grants from the district," Doran said. "The grants could be for anything a teacher comes up with. For example, we've had reading grants."

Want to help?

For more information, or to make a donation, go to www.bspfortmill.org, or call Heather Doran at (704) 200-4509.

Last year, the community helped organizers raise \$8,000. That money helped with field trip scholarships.

"I would love to raise between \$10,000 and \$12,000," Doran said. "I don't know how realistic that is, but I'd love to be able to do what we can for the school community."